

Board of Director's Meeting  
November 10, 2008  
**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Dave Cozad, President  
Mike Zeller, Vice President  
Kirk Farmer  
Brian Henderson  
Jane Alley  
Harriet Charno  
Herb Hardwick

**Board Members Absent:**

Pam Gard

**Staff Present:**

Eric Nelis, Principal  
Eric Roskam, Vice Principal  
Patrick Sprehe  
Jean Claude Diatta

**Guests:**

Chad Phillips  
Mary Pat Beals  
Kendrick Blackwood

Dave Cozad opened the meeting asking stakeholders for comments/questions. Jean Claude Diatta thanked the Board for their input into the selection of the teacher representative to the board.

Patrick Sprehe introduced himself as the teacher representative appointed to the Board and gave a brief bio of himself.

Kendrick Blackwood, guest, stated his concern regarding acceptance of his son in our school and their plan and anticipation of him being accepted and was not pleased with our enrollment process. Jane Alley informed him that it was recommended by our sponsor, UCM, to set open enrollment dates for kindergarten. Lengthy discussion followed.

**Parent Association Report**

Annie Moren sent updates via e-mail to the Board as follows:

- P.A. meeting will be Nov. 13
- Staff appreciation lunch and breakfasts were provided on Parent/Teacher conference days
- Boo Bayou was successful

- Request that school take over producing the Buzz Book
- Request an update on the building expansion project be given at the Nov. P.A. meeting

### **Capital Campaign Report – Mary Pat Beals**

Mary Pat Beals presented an update of the Capital Campaign (copy of report attached).

Ms. Beals informed the group that to date we have several visits and proposals in process regarding contributions.

### **Principal's Report –**

#### *Policy Update*

Eric Nelis mentioned that he has been working with Mr. Ray, a consultant, and some of the staff on revising policies. Dave Cozad asked Mr. Nelis to update the group on the policy process. Eric Nelis stated that some of the policies are laws and have to be enforced into the school. He mentioned that after this review and update has been completed; the board will receive a copy of the revised policies for review and discussion. He mentioned that the goal is to have a completed draft by the end of November. Discussion followed.

Dave Cozad suggested having a Board meeting in January to review the policies. Jacque Lane gave further explanation of the review process. Dave recommends that he and Mike Zeller meet with Eric Nelis and staff involved with updating the policies to get a better understanding of the process, timeline, etc. Herb Hardwick suggested having Mr. Ray present to lead the Board in the proposed changes. Lengthy discussion followed.

#### *Building Expansion*

Eric Nelis gave some suggestions on improving the current expansion plan to add additional space. Discussion. Kirk Farmer mentioned that we are still waiting on a investment grade rating and we will return to Mohefa for final approval. Also, a discussion regarding financing and interest rates was discussed.

#### *Interns*

Eric Roskam distributed information regarding our interns and the fact that they will need host families for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. He informed the group that we would possibly need additional families to host interns next year.

#### *UMKC French Placement Test*

Eric Roskam also mentioned that our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders took this test last week and 12 students could have received 4 hours of college credits based on their test results.

He also provided a summary of the MAP test results and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter breakdown of grades analyzed according to grade, gender and ethnic groups.

### **Development Committee**

Mary Pat Beals presented capital Campaign update.

### **Human Resources – Jane Alley**

Eric Nelis provided the committee with proposed staffing numbers for next year.

### **Recruitment**

Eric Nelis informed the group that there are currently 50 kindergartners enrolled for the next school year. Discussion was held regarding the low enrollment of minority students. Discussion regarding recruiting followed. Eric Roskam suggested opening a pre-school which would help prepare pre-k students for kindergarten and possibly help with minority recruitment. Melissa Thomas suggested the possibility of hiring a teacher to go into the pre-schools to teach (in French) for part of the day, which would provide exposure for Academie Lafayette. It was also suggested that we develop partnerships with pre-schools. Jane Alley mentioned that we need to be pro-active in reaching out to minority families to help their students be successful in this school. Eric Roskam suggested that the after school tutoring program be reinstated and Dave Cozad requested that Eric provide the Board with a proposal for approval and budget purposes re: the tutoring program. Eric Nelis also mentioned that we need to focus on kindergartners and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in terms of academic help.

### **Technology Committee – Eric Roskam**

We subscribe to MoreNet. He mentioned that audio visuals are being used more in the classrooms and we are working on incorporating more and more technology into the classroom.

### **Academic Committee**

No report.

### **Board President's Report**

General discussion regarding board training, background checks, funding, etc. was held.

Jean Claude Diatta stated that teachers also need to be advocates of the school, especially African teachers with regard to minority recruitment.

Herb Hardwick suggested an extensive marketing program for recruitment purposes to stimulate interest in our school. This would be done by 2-3 mailings being sent regularly. Discussion regarding follow up on the above mentioned suggestions were held.

Recruitment strategies were discussed at length.

Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carlos McClain