

**Board of Director's Meeting
December 16, 2008**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Dave Cozad, President
Mike Zeller, Vice President
Kirk Farmer
Melissa Thomas
Jane Alley
Herb Hardwick
Pam Gard
Brian Hendrickson

Board Members Absent:

Harriet Charno

Dave Cozad opened the meeting by asking for questions or comments from the stakeholders. There were none.

Principal's Report - Eric Nelis

Eric Nelis brought up for discussion the issue of closing or not closing the school due to snow or inclement weather. He asked if he needed approval from the Board to close school and the Board approved Eric Nelis to make the decision regarding school closings due to inclement weather.

Eric Roskam then mentioned that the Stanford results have been mailed to parents and he is continuing to review and evaluate numbers. He then began discussion about students' performance and providing tutoring for those students recommended by their teacher for the program. He also mentioned that some teachers are currently tutoring their students on their own as they see a need. Discussion followed. Patrick Sprehe mentioned that the scoring system used by the Stanford test group has changed which resulted in lower test scores for some students.

Jane Alley then brought up again, the issue of closing school due to inclement weather and stated that the main issue would be involving transportation on snow/ice and that the school's primary responsibility is for the safety of the students and this should be discussed with all persons involved, including the bus company, to make a good decision.

Finance Report – Kirk Farmer

Kirk Farmer mentioned that information to go back to S&P is being prepared. He informed the group that there are other options available to us and commented that Bank of America does not want to finance the loan. Jane Alley asked if we have other banks that would possibly be interested and Kirk stated that there are other finance institutions such as IFF that would probably be interested in financing the project.

Another option would be to acquire another facility to possibly have as a kindergarten location or a trailer, which would both be a temporary solution. Dave Cozad mentioned a stimulus package that may be a possibility that will be provided by the government and administered through DESE. Kirk then mentioned that there is a grassroots plan in the works to visit our state officials to get their support, which will be helpful in obtaining funds through the stimulus package and other possible funding avenues. Mike Zeller asked if we could use the boiler, windows, etc. as part of the proposal for the stimulus package. Brian Hendrickson asked about the timeline for the current plans and Kirk responded that design and plan should be completed by January and groundbreaking is planned for February. Discussion continued.

Human Resources – Jane Alley

No Report

Recruitment/Enrollment Committee Report – Rachael Gordon

The committee is continuing to hold monthly recruitment meetings.

Fund Development – Rachael Gordon

Proposals are out requesting contributions from several major contributors. She informed the group that \$25,000 had come in from the Helzberg Foundation; John Archer Foundation gave the school \$100,000; and Trace Shapiro donated money to purchase the portable sink which will allow us to provide hot lunches. Dave Cozad asked Rachael Gordon to provide Board members with addresses for the above contributors in case they would like to send a thank you.

Academic Committee – Eric Nelis

Eric Nelis mentioned that discussion is being held to combine academic and professional development as one committee. And, members and a chairperson will need to be appointed.

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2009

Eric Nelis distributed copies of the current application breakdown by ethnic group and gender. He mentioned that he met with St. Francis Child Development Group who trains pre-school directors and we are discussing their using our school for some of their training which will give us more exposure for potential kindergartners. Also, he stated that we are developing some good relationships with pre-schools and their directors, which will be helpful to us in recruiting.

Eric also expressed concern about how we will handle students who are recruited when they may or may not be chosen when and if a lottery takes place and brought up for discussion the expansion and the possibility of having a kindergarten site off campus. He commented that this would allow for more space in the current building, but was unsure how parents would accept this.

Because of the constant discussion of increasing class sizes, Jane Alley asked how many students we want at the school (especially incoming kindergartners). Dave responded that class size is important (no more than 22 student per class) and that the total number of students at this facility not becomes too large (500-550).

Kirk Farmer then distributed copies of the proposed Maximum student/room attrition rate and gave an explanation of the numbers. Discussion continued and he mentioned that the new facility would accommodate the need for additional rooms in the upcoming years due to the attrition rate. He then asked Eric Nelis for an explanation about the building that could possibly be used as an off-site campus for kindergarten. Eric responded that because it is currently set up for a school it would not, hopefully, require a lot of renovation. Discussion followed at length. The question of whether trailers would be less expensive than acquiring another building was raised and the response was yes, but not as feasible in terms of accommodating our needs. Sandrine Salas expressed concern regarding whether or not we could finance and maintain another building even though repairs and improvements in our current building have not been done due to budget restraints. Discussion followed at length including quality of education, capabilities of the current campus, etc.

The group entertained the question as to how many kindergartners will be accepted for 2009-10 school year and discussion followed. Dave Cozad then suggested that we obtain the following information:

1. A detailed plan on cost and logistics of running a second campus
2. Input from parents enrolled for next year regarding how they would like sending their kindergartners to another campus.
3. Existing parents' opinion regarding kindergartners being on another campus.

Discussion continued at length. Herb Hardwick then suggested that we first determine what constitutes a quality education at Academie Lafayette before we begin planning for additional students and decide what is the best plan to continue the unique education that our past and current students are receiving. Discussion continued regarding the number of kindergartners that will be accepted.

Kirk Farmer asked if the building planning group for the school to investigate the possibility of acquiring another campus and reporting back at the next meeting. Eric recommended that we check into utilizing smaller contractors into the proposed additional building to give bids on upgrading the building for our use.

Mike Zeller moved to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Jane Alley seconded. Roll call taken:

Motion carried.

Dave Cozad	yes
Mike Zeller	yes
Kirk Farmer	yes
Melissa Thomas	yes
Jane Alley	yes
Herb Hardwick	yes
Pam Gard	yes
Brian Hendrickson	yes

The open meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Carlos McClain