

September 15, 2011

Centre Learning Community Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm

2011-2012 Trustees in attendance – Gail Boldt, Ruth Hocker, Dennis DuVall, Kathy Kalinosky (arrived at 7:15), Andrea Kennedy, Kelly Kennedy (arrived at 7:30), Ron Boyles (arrived at 7:40), Alternate Patty Webb (in for Ron Boyles, then Jenny Kenyon)

Trustees not in attendance – Brian Rowan, Jenny Kenyon

Administration in attendance – Kosta Dussias

Staff in attendance – Mark Toci

Community members in attendance – Julie Farris

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Call to order, pledge, & review of meeting agenda & meeting format
- Approval of August 18th board minutes – Patty Webb made the motion to accept the August 18th Regular Meeting Board Minutes as amended. Second Ruth Hocker– vote (5-0-0)

REPORTS

- School Update - Andrea Kennedy reported that the enrollment is currently 94 students. The all school field trip is scheduled for October 12th. Gail Boldt thanked everyone for back to school night
- Business Manager/CEO report – Kosta Dussias reported that he has received the reimbursement rates from Bellefonte, Huntingdon and State College. He is still waiting for the rates from Penns Valley, Bald Eagle, and Phillipsburg. The Social Security reimbursement to Charter Schools has been taken out of the state budget, Kosta is waiting to hear if that will affect our budget.
 1. Financials were presented
 2. Approval of payment of promissory note – the balloon payment for the 2nd mortgage is due in October. Ruth Hocker made the motion to authorize Kosta Dussias to investigate the possibility of paying off the mortgage early. If he can then he should do so, otherwise he should make the payment on the October 1, 2011 due date. Second Kathy Kalinosky – vote (7-0-0)
 3. Presentation and approval of the Professional Development Plan
Kathy Kalinosky made the motion to approve the Professional Development Plan as presented. Second Ruth Hocker – vote (7-0-0)
 4. Approval of IDEA Agreement
Patty Webb made the motion to approve the IDEA Agreement. Second Kelly Kennedy – vote (6-0-1) Andrea Kennedy recused herself because the agreement pays part of her salary.
 5. MOU between CLC and IU for ESL fiscal services
Ruth Hocker made the motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with IU#10. Second Andrea Kennedy – vote (7-0-0)
- CLC Parent's Group report – Ruth Hocker presented the groups report, see attached
- Student Council report – Kelly Kennedy reported that student council will be meeting during winter specials in the interim Kelly Kennedy, Morgan Ilgen and Amanda Dietrick will be developing a vision for the group.
- Training/Board Manual/Nominating Committee
 1. Patty Webb reported the committee is meeting to fine tune the plan for the monthly training segments.
 2. Patty Webb reported on the board alternate recruitment. Julie Farris is willing to become an alternate and she will be following up with the other two parents who expressed an interest.
 3. The committee name is being changed to Board Development Committee
- Policies/Employment and Strategic Planning Committee – Gail Boldt presented polices 001, 099, 102, 106, 112, 113, 115 for review.
- By-laws/Charter Review Committee – Ruth Hocker presented Kim Colonna's suggested revision to the By-laws. A discussion was held concerning those suggestions.

- Facilities/Safety Committee – Dennis DuVall reported that another Day of Caring is being planned.
- Recruitment and Retention Working Group – Kathy Kalinosky made the report for the group, see attached.

TRAINING

Kosta Dussias presented information on the schools financial documents and reports.

OLD BUSINESS

ECO position update – The staff has undertaken the duties of the ECO at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – issues to think about

- PSSA results – how do the results affect our school
- Query about expansion – pros and cons
- Videos
- Gail's absence

CLOSING COMMENTS, REFLECTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 20th at 7:00 pm at CLC.

ADJOURNMENT

Kelly Kennedy made the motion to adjourn at 9:31 pm. Second Patty Webb – vote (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Kennedy
CLC Board Secretary

CLC Board of Trustees

September 15, 2011

CLC Parents' Group Board Liaison Report

The *CLC Parents' Group* met September 1, 2011.

They have updated the bulletin board and the website. They are working on opening the lock to the *Parents' Group* filing cabinet.

The group is working on further bylaws revisions, and will present them at the next meeting.

The CLC Student/Family directory is being organized and will be distributed soon.

The advertisement placed by The *CLC Parents' Group* in Family Pages went well. CLC was the only school that placed an ad in back.

Upcoming, the group is planning a newsletter and a fundraiser.

The next Meeting of The *CLC Parents' Group* is October 6th at 6:30 pm.

CLC Board Of Trustees

Bylaws Review Subcommittee Report

September 15, 2011

1. Kim Colonna has completed her initial review of the bylaws. She says:

Overall, I think the bylaws are starting to look good, but there is still some work to do. I estimate that I have only incurred about \$1000 in fees so far on this, so if you want to make further revisions and send another draft for my review, there's room in the budget for that.
2. We have examined her comments and are working on the areas she has flagged for concern. We want to highlight two of those for the full board:
 - a. Section 4.03. Executive Sessions.
 - i. Section 4.03. reads:

All regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be open to the public, except that, upon a vote of a majority of the members present, an executive session may be held. Executive sessions will include all trustees and alternative trustees present, the CEO, and such other individuals as the Board determines are necessary to the items to be discussed in the Executive session.
 - ii. Kim Colonna commented:

I recommend against including non-trustees in the executive sessions, as a matter of course, not only because the Board needs to have independence and flexibility about who to include in executive sessions, but also because is it easy for executive sessions to cross over into areas that must be conducted in public sessions under the Sunshine Act.
 - iii. The subcommittee feels strongly that the CEO should be included in all executive sessions so that cooperation between the Board and the CEO will be maintained. We have left the section as is, despite Ms. Colonna's recommendation.
 - b. Section 2.12. Powers of Trustees.
 - i. The subcommittee rewrote Section 2.12. to read:

Because CLC is a considered a "teacher led" school, primary decision making power with regard to academic issues, in addition to recommendations for hiring and retention of employees, is in the hands of teachers and other professional staff hired by the board of Trustees. To maintain their oversight, it shall be the duty of the Trustees to:
 - ii. Kim Colonna commented:

I recognize the "teacher-led" nature of CLCCS, but the 17-1716-A of the Charter School Law put primary authority in the hands of

the Board. I would be concerned if the bylaws did not appropriately acknowledge the Board's authority.

iii. Kim Colonna suggested:

Because CLC Charter School is chartered as a “teacher led” school, the teachers and professional staff hired by the Board of Trustees shall make recommendations to the Board on matters involving curriculum, academics, and the hiring and retention of employees. The Board shall have the authority to decide matters related to the operation of the CLC Charter School, including but not limited to budgeting, curriculum, and operating procedures. The Board shall also have the duty to:

iv. The subcommittee is now offering this wording:

While the Board shall have the ultimate authority to decide matters related to the operation of the CLC Charter School, because CLC Charter School is chartered as a “teacher led” school, deference shall be given to the recommendations of the teachers and professional staff hired by the Board of Trustees on matters involving curriculum, academics, and the hiring and retention of employees. The Board shall also have the duty to:

OR

Because CLC Charter School is chartered as a “teacher led” school, the board shall rely on the recommendations of the teachers and other professional staff hired by the board of Trustees regarding curriculum, academics, and the hiring and retention of employees. The Board shall have the authority to decide matters related to the operation of the CLC Charter School, including but not limited to budgeting, curriculum, and operating procedures. The Board shall also have the duty to:

3. The subcommittee plans to submit the bylaws to Ms. Colonna for a final review, and plans to provide their recommendations at the October meeting.