



BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2009

Doug Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Board Members In Attendance: Doug Baxter, Marie-Jeanne Cotner, Tonya Daher, Amanda Dietrick, Morgan Ilgen, Andrea Kennedy, Mindy McDonough, Lori McTavish, and Lisa Maras

Community Members In Attendance: Carl Cotner, Kosta Dussias, Pat Hunt, Danae Powers, Chris Small, and Mark Toci

Board Members Not In Attendance: Leslie Aderhold

Minutes

- ❖ The 6/17/09 Minutes were amended as follows:
 - “Amanda Dietrich” was corrected to “Amanda Dietrick” in three places.
 - A CLC student’s name was removed from the Student Council section following Amanda Dietrick’s stated concern that naming students in a public document may violate privacy laws. (Kosta Dussias additionally cited FERPA as something that would disallow it.)
 - Tonya Daher expressed concern about a sentence describing Marie-Jeanne Cotner’s concern that the CLC Board is not following the Corporation’s by-laws: she worried that it reads as if Mrs. Cotner thinks that the Board is not following any rules. Mrs. Cotner suggested the addition of “some of” before “the Corporation’s By-Laws,” and Ms. Daher deemed it acceptable.
 - The phrase “several Board members ridiculed the notion of having a lawyer present” was stricken.
 - Sentences concerning the remarks made about Young Scholars Charter School by Kosta Dussias and Doug Baxter were moved to a section outside the ECO Report section, per Pat Hunt’s request that we “follow the rules” about listing discussion items not authored by Mrs. Hunt under the ECO Report heading.
 - The name “Mindy McTavish” was changed to “Mindy McDonough” in the Business Manager Report section.
 - Mindy McDonough moved to change the phrase “dog and pony show” to “presentation” in the Business Manager Report section. Tonya Daher seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Marie-Jeanne Cotner abstained. The quotation marks were also removed.
 - “?? expressed gratitude” was changed to “Gratitude was expressed” in the Friends of CLC section.
- ❖ There was some discussion about the nature of minutes and whether or not they ought to reflect what was actually said, Morgan Ilgen saying that the previous secretary used a different style, Pat Hunt describing some organizations’ minutes, and Marie-Jeanne Cotner describing others’. When Mrs. Hunt said that the SCASD Board minutes are sparsely written and Carl Cotner pointed out that their meetings are videotaped, Mrs. Hunt said she was unaware of the videotaping. Doug Baxter said that he has been accustomed to informally-held, casual meetings where people are likely to talk to each other and make side comments; he said he does not believe minutes should be a verbatim transcript. Dr. Cotner expressed the idea that things stated in a public meeting

where taxpayer money and children are concerned are very important. He said he is concerned that when in session, the CLC Board ought to deal exclusively with CLC business (e.g., not discuss other schools' business). Dr. Cotner said he thinks it looks really bad that the CLC Board is not following its own elections by-laws; he emphasized that parents ought to be able to vote for their representatives. Mark Toci described working on his hands and knees to save money and then said a tone is being set. When Mrs. Cotner asked him to be specific about the nature of the tone, he responded, "What do you want me to do? Ask for a show of hands to see how many people think a tone is being set?" Mrs. Cotner responded that she did not think people could raise their hands if the tone was not described or defined.

- ❖ Lisa Maras moved to approve the 6/17/09 minutes. Tonya Daher seconded the motion. Marie-Jeanne Cotner abstained. When there was silence, Doug Baxter asked whether people were having issues with the minutes. Morgan Ilgen said the rhetoric felt uncomfortable to her and that "it [the minutes] feels like it has a different agenda." When asked to describe the agenda, she said, "Picking out pieces of conversation to put forward an agenda." Tonya Daher said that she had not been present at the previous meeting; she suggested specifying the by-laws breaches Mrs. Cotner raised; and she asked Mrs. Cotner to explain her concerns. Mrs. Cotner had begun answering the question when Pat Hunt began discussing the CLC By-Laws pertaining to Executive Session, and Ms. Daher's question was abandoned. Further discussion regarding By-Laws interpretation ensued.
- ❖ Doug Baxter suggested that Marie-Jeanne Cotner summarize the section detailing responses to her By-Laws concerns, in order that the minutes be approved at the next meeting.
- ❖ Lori McTavish moved to table approval of the minutes until the next Board meeting. Mindy McDonough seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Marie-Jeanne Cotner abstained.

ECO Report (Pat Hunt)

- ❖ Enrollment is at 100: every class is full.
- ❖ Pat Hunt requested that Board members read the updated Parent/Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct before the next meeting. She emphasized that the Board needs to approve them in order to give them "force of policy." Mrs. Hunt said to the Board secretary, "You don't have to put that into the minutes."

Business Manager Report (Kosta Dussias)

- ❖ Kosta Dussias presented the 2008-2009 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Budget; his report summarizing expenditures between June 18-30, 2009; and his report summarizing expenditures between July 1-14, 2009.
- ❖ Kosta Dussias pointed out the new flooring in the office. He reported that the classroom flooring is not yet finished. Mr. Dussias reported that CLC was able to purchase the flooring for \$2.92/square foot rather than \$3.90/square foot. The installation will run just short of \$6000.
- ❖ Kosta Dussias explained that "No name" on the budget report (-\$464.56) represents a bank surcharge and bank reconciliations. Mr. Dussias reported that the auditors said there were small monthly variances as such.
- ❖ Mindy McDonough asked about the possibility of the surplus going towards bathroom makeovers. Kosta Dussias said there is some extra tile but that the school would almost certainly need more. Mr. Dussias said bathroom makeovers may or may not be a possibility.
- ❖ In response to Tonya Daher's question concerning the tuition variance, Kosta Dussias explained that various variables make up the variance (e.g., students enrolling and unenrolling, average daily attendance required by each school district).

Friends of CLC

- ❖ Mindy McDonough followed up on the placement of the "Friends of CLC" link on the CLC website; it was confirmed that it is now under "Parent Information."

- ❖ Lori McTavish indicated that the CLC website currently lists a Friends of CLC meeting for tomorrow, July 16, and confirmed that this is incorrect.
- ❖ The September Friends of CLC meeting is on the same night as Back to School Night (September 17). Pat Hunt stated her opinion that it is a wonderful occasion for a short meeting, because Friends of CLC generates a lot of enthusiasm that night, with many parents present. Marie-Jeanne Cotner voiced agreement.

Student Council (Morgan Ilgen)

- ❖ There is nothing to report.

Old Business

- ❖ Pat Hunt said that she wanted to set the tone with warm, loving comments that she did not want on public record. When Carl Cotner questioned the legality of making comments off the record, Pat Hunt referenced his comments as a threat and explained that she considers it a threat if she cannot say something privately. Mindy McDonough said that people may fear saying things if they fear their statements will be made public, and Marie-Jeanne Cotner responded, “Good.” Mrs. Cotner claimed that “everyone” had attacked her when she raised concerns at the previous Board meeting; she subsequently apologized to Lisa Maras and others who had remained silent during the previous meeting; said her statement was an exaggeration; and retracted the statement. When Mrs. McDonough stated that emotions were emerging too much, Mrs. Cotner responded, “Are you crazy?” and said that since people naturally have emotions, they will naturally come out. Dr. Cotner voiced disagreement with Mrs. Cotner’s comments. Kosta Dussias proposed going into recess. It was clarified that any discussion taking place during the recess would not be included in the Minutes.
- ❖ Mindy McDonough motioned to take a ten-minute recess. Morgan Ilgen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Marie-Jeanne Cotner abstained.

Recess began at 7:56 p.m.

Doug Baxter called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Board Members In Attendance: Doug Baxter, Marie-Jeanne Cotner, Amanda Dietrick, Morgan Ilgen, Andrea Kennedy, Mindy McDonough, Lori McTavish, and Lisa Maras

Community Members In Attendance: Carl Cotner, Kosta Dussias, and Mark Toci

Board Members Not In Attendance: Leslie Aderhold

New Business

- ❖ Doug Baxter asked whether anyone has more information about legal issues or whether they wish to discuss comfort level, etc.
- ❖ Kosta Dussias proposed an orientation for new Board members. Several Board members voiced approval.
- ❖ Carl Cotner said he liked the idea of new member orientation among other reasons because although social events feel good for “insiders” but not for anyone who feels outside the group. Dr. Cotner said he believes it is important to stick to the business at hand rather than mixing a serious, important purpose with frivolity in order to ensure that meetings are not confusing and/or off-putting.
- ❖ Doug Baxter proposed a work session before the next Board meeting, preferably sooner than later. Some discussion followed. Lori McTavish said she could not consult her schedule because she did not have her calendar; and she pointed out that Tonya Daher and Pat Hunt had already

left. Mr. Baxter proposed setting up the meeting via email. Mindy McDonough requested that the work session not be held on a Wednesday.

- ❖ Marie-Jeanne Cotner requested that the Board budget \$500-600 for a session with a lawyer to clean up by-laws issues and answer questions. Mrs. Cotner said that she knows a few education lawyers who have defended charter schools and who would be willing to do such work. Amanda Dietrick proposed that we have the Work Session first and ask a lawyer to come in after we have discussed and agreed on issues. Several Board members voiced agreement. Mrs. Cotner said that one of her concerns goes back to the way the parent and student representatives were elected. (She had described the history of her election at the previous Board meeting.) Mrs Cotner said she is nervous that we are not actually a legitimate Board and wondered whether it were possible to move forward under these circumstances or whether this is a legal mess that needs to be cleaned up. Carl Cotner said that that is a good single question for a lawyer, before the Board begins a discussion. Lisa Maras said that she is happy to consult a lawyer but not happy to pay one. Mindy McDonough proposed contacting Steve Fleming, a lawyer whose children have attended CLC. Kosta Dussias said that Mr. Fleming may be a good start but that he is an immigration lawyer who may not be able to contribute directly. Mrs. McDonough also mentioned Kathleen Yurchak as a possibility. Mrs. Cotner said that she is reasonably sure Ms. Yurchak is involved with education law. Mr. Dussias proposed not ruling out the idea of paying for legal advice but exhausting free legal advice routes first. No decisions were made, but general approval was voiced. Mr. Dussias said that before leaving town he would get Steve Fleming's contact information for Doug Baxter, who will begin by contacting Mr. Fleming; do what is necessary in order to get an answer to the first legal question; and schedule a work session via email. There was some confusion regarding the purpose of the email, a few members expressing concern about the idea of conducting a discussion via email; several other Board members reassured them that the email would be used only for scheduling purposes.
- ❖ Marie-Jeanne Cotner confirmed that she is to edit the 6/17/09 Minutes as requested and that both the 6/17/09 and 7/15/09 Minutes will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Lisa Maras moved to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Marie-Jeanne Cotner abstained. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The work session will be scheduled online by Doug Baxter.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Centre Learning Community Charter School office.