

**Highlander Charter School
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 14, 2013
8:30 am**

Rose Mary Grant, John Kelly, John Lombardo, Eric Mack, Frank Picciotti, Linda Cohen, Ro Mede, Richard Dickson, Rachel Roderick, Ron Caniglia, Fran Muphy, Jim Gannaway, Bari Harlam, Shawn Rubin, Stephanie Castilla, Jeanne D'Agostino

Meeting started at 8:30 am

Approval of minutes from last Board Meeting

Ron made a motion to approve minutes from January's Board Meeting. Linda seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Executive Session

Linda made a motion to convene executive session pursuant to to R.I.G.L. §42-46-5(a)(1)

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- i. Discussion of the job performance/character of a non-tenured teacher(s).
- ii. Vote on School Administration's recommendation to not renew contract of non-tenured teacher(s) upon the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year
- iii. Discussion of the job performance/character of a tenured teacher(s).
- iv. Vote on School Administration's recommendation to dismiss tenured teacher(s) from service upon the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year

Richard seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by all members present.

Prior to entering Executive Session, the following statement was made:

**ANY PERSONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
HAVE BEEN SO NOTIFIED AND AFFORDED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THE DISCUSSION HELD IN OPEN
SESSION**

Report of Votes during Executive Session

During the Executive Session the following motions were approved:

Motion to accept the school administration recommendation to non-renew the following non-tenure teachers (substitute teachers) upon the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year: (See Attached)

Motion made by Fran Murphy, seconded by Linda Cohen and unanimously approved.

Motion made to accept the school administration recommendation to dismiss tenured teacher upon the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. Motion made by Richard Dickson, seconded by Rose Mary Mede. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ron Caniglia made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Seconded by Richard Dickson. Motion approved.

Financials

No financials available for this meeting.

Head's Report

NECAP results -the school continues moving steadily. Overall reading and math both went down a few points but no real significant change. There was a low cohort as there was the year they tried to close us down and this impacted our scores negatively. Writing went up significantly. Our middle school continues to improve.

In terms of what should be done different to improve scores. Rose explained that curriculum has been created for subjects that did not have a curriculum before. We also need to take into consideration social problems in every classroom, which also affect the academic performance of the students. For example, our 3rd grade class we have very strong teacher but is a class with a lot of social/emotional problems.

Rose Mary Mede talked about not moving kids along from grade to grade. Rose explained that for some of these students if they stay behind or move along wouldn't make a difference. We have kids with different disabilities.

Rose will take some of those kids NECAP results and show the growth rate and it will send this information to the board.

Race to the Top extra monies were approved. The RI Foundation award came in, part would be for the Institute and part for the School. Medicaid income is still coming in high.

We have received \$25,000 extra in IDEA monies. All this income will reduce the deficit. Title 3 reviewed ESL last years funds and we were notified that the amount of \$7,000 was misused, even though it was approved by RIDE and billed through them we have to pay back this money.

We lost the appeal on unemployment for an Institute employee. The 2nd hearing will be in 2 weeks.

The city agreed to sell the Elmwood Community Center. We are currently working on appraisal and proposal.

Our admissions lottery will be on March 1st. We don't have a total number of applications yet.

The boiler is not working and to repair it will be a big expenditure; \$16,000 to \$30,000. It was recommended that we ask for a CityArts! to contribute towards this cost.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 am