

Paul Cuffee School

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 17, 2010

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Paul Cuffee School was held on June 17, 2010 at the Paul Cuffee Lower School in Providence, Rhode Island.

Present: Su Almeida, Luz Avila, David Burnham, Russell Carey, William Clifton, Sr., Allyn Copp, Stefano Crema, Dorothy Fields, Keith Mathews, Maria Monteiro, Joop Nagtegaal, Martha Newcomb, Leanne Nyahkoon, Dorothy Patrick, Carolyn Pemberton, Sarah Reis, Ana Cecilia Rosado, Earl Smith, Babak Taleghani.

Excused: Kathleen Alvarez, Elizabeth Colon, Joan Canady Countryman, Philip Gould.

Paul Cuffee Staff Present: David Bourns, Becky Coustan, Jonathan Conklin, Nina Giannotti, Julia Karahalidis, Tina McDonough, Michael Obel-Omia, Nell Sears, Suzie Shaw.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. President Joop Nagtegaal began by welcoming everyone to the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and introducing new members Dorothy Fields and Earl Smith and incoming Head of School Michael Obel-Omia. He noted the many recent developments concerning education in Rhode

Island, including the passage of an education funding formula by the General Assembly.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting of the Board were approved unanimously with several corrections noted and made. The motion to approve was made by Dave Burnham and seconded by Judge Clifton.

Head of School May Report

Mr. Bourns reported that the school is very close to securing a location for the Paul Cuffee High School. An agreement with the city to use the former Feinstein High School building on Elmwood Avenue is in the process of being finalized. Mr. Bourns also commented on the intensive lobbying effort undertaken in support of the 30/80 housing aid equity legislation and planning for next year's legislative session. There were questions and discussion from members of the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Joop delivered the report of the Nominating Committee in Joan Countryman's place. He thanked the trustees whose terms are

ending, Luz Avila and Liz Colon, and presented them with a gift of art work and a book which will be placed in the school library in their name. Both were applauded by all. Joop also thanked Stefano Crema for his service as a parent trustee and welcomed him as a non-parent trustee (as being recommended by the Committee). He then reported on the recommendations of the committee for new members: Earl Smith, Dorothy Fields, John Cariati, and Stefano Crema. Following brief discussion it was moved by Keith Mathew that the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee be elected to the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Pemberton and approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

Babak Taleghani delivered the report of the Finance Committee. He noted that the distribution of the recently filed Form 990 to the Board, and commented that the school anticipates a break-even fiscal year. Expenditures had been reduced by approximately \$500,000 during the course of the year with some off-sets from stimulus funding. There was discussion of the scope and impact of program reductions which included the elimination of most summer programs and the reduction of teaching partner positions. Joop thanked David, the staff, and teachers for their hard work in this regard.

Babak moved the recommendation of the Committee that the salary scale for certified staff members and the salary ranges for

administrative staff be maintained at the 2009-10 rates. Following discussion and the distribution of the proposed salary ranges to the Board for review, the motion was seconded by Martha Newcomb and approved unanimously.

Babak reviewed the status of the anticipated closing on the acquisition of the Living Room property. He concluded his report by moving the recommendation of the Committee that the designated account signers for the Citizens Bank checking and savings account be Babak Taleghani, Michael Obel-Omia, Joop Nagtegaal, Jonathan Conklin and Julia Karahalidis; and that designated account signers for the Bank of America checking and savings accounts be Babak Taleghani, Michael Obel-Omia, Joop Nagtegaal, and Jonathan Conklin. The motion was seconded by Allyn Copp and approved unanimously.

Plant & Property Committee

Russell Carey delivered the report of the Plant and Property Committee. He reviewed the status of the Living Room property and the planning for that property once it is acquired, the high school site, discussions with Narragansett Bay Commission regarding the farmer's market property and the discussions the Committee will continue to have regarding long-term site solutions for the middle and high schools. There were questions and comments from members of the Board.

By-Laws Committee

Martha Newcomb delivered the report of the By-Laws Committee. She reviewed the proposed changes to the By-Laws: (1) that the Trustee who is a descendant of Paul Cuffee be exempt from the term limit provision; and (2) that the Treasurer no longer be exempt from the provision limiting Officers of the Board to five years of consecutive service in an Officer position. The motion, which had been circulated in writing to the members of the Board in advance of the meeting, was made by Martha, seconded by Carolyn Pemberton, and passed unanimously. Joop thanked Su Almeida for her willingness to continue serving the School as a Trustee.

2010-2011 Trustees Calendar

The calendar of meetings for the 2010-2011 academic year was circulated and reviewed. A suggestion was made that some meetings be held in the middle and high schools.

Other Business

Julia Karahalidis distributed information regarding development and fundraising results, and noted that the annual fund has exceeded its goal of \$110,000 with \$115,000 received to date. She and others noted the continued importance of 100% Board participation. Tina noted

that twelve Paul Cuffee School students will be attending summer programs at St. Andrews this year.

Russell Carey read and moved the following resolution of appreciation:

David L. Bourns

WHEREAS David L. Bourns has served the children of Providence with commitment, dignity, passion, and integrity in his role as founding Head of Paul Cuffee School since 2001;

WHEREAS he led the School community from the wilderness of physically separate temporary quarters to the promised land of 459 Promenade Street in the challenging first and second years;

WHEREAS he established – by constant personal example – the culture of caring, excellence, respect, inquiry, and high expectations which has characterized the School since its earliest days;

WHEREAS he hired, mentored, and supported outstanding teachers and staff who believe, as he does, in the value and potential of every child and who care deeply about their work and the craft of teaching;

WHEREAS he committed himself to professing the mission of the School in the board rooms, back rooms, and living rooms of any

business, government, or community leader who would listen and along the way gained friends and influenced people at all levels of the city and state who have themselves become tireless advocates for the children of Paul Cuffee School;

WHEREAS he conducted himself in the execution of his duties with personable warmth, energy, good humor, compassion, commitment to learning, a knack for selecting the right poem for any occasion, and a constant affection for and dedication to all things Paul Cuffee, which has engendered the admiration of all who have worked with and learned from him;

WHEREAS his efforts and leadership have been hailed and acclaimed in many quarters, including by proclamation of the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, an honorary doctorate from Haverford College, and the recognition of Paul Cuffee School as one of the top 100 charter schools out of 3,000 nationwide by the Center for Education Reform in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS were Paul Cuffee alive today, he would no doubt recognize in David L. Bourns a common soul who has lived his life in a manner wholly consistent with the values and courage of the namesake of our school;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Paul Cuffee School extends its most sincere and profound gratitude

to David L. Bourns for his contributions to Paul Cuffee School and the children of Providence, Rhode Island, and wishes him and his family a most well-deserved retirement of rest, reading, reflection, and renewal.

The motion was seconded by Ana Cecilia Rosado and passed unanimously with applause and gratitude from the Board of Trustees.

Adjournment

Keith Mathews moved to adjourn. Dorothy Fields seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell C. Carey, Clerk