

The Segue Institute for Learning



Where ALL students are at Promise!

SEGUE INSTITUTE FOR LEARNING BOARD

325 Cowden Street
Central Falls, RI 02863

Regular Monthly Meeting
#9
April 9, 2012

Ms. Rios called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Rios, Mr. Ibarra, Ms. Schachter, Mr. Setaro, Mrs. Hoffens, Mr. Rathier, Mr. Cohen and Ms. Schechtman.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ozcan.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Garcia, Mrs. Manocchio, Ms. Rivera and other staff members whose names are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Agenda Item 1: Motion made by Lauren Schechtman to approve minutes of March 12, 2012 as amended. Second by Mr. Ibarra and approved by remaining board members.

Agenda Item 2: Fiscal Report

Mrs. Manocchio explains the categories on the 2011-2012 budget under professional fees. She further explains why it seems under budget. Ms. Schachter mentions not receiving Quarterly Bill. Mrs. Manocchio explains that the CF district is working on and will be forthcoming. Chairperson Rios asks why we are under budget and what will be done with the extra funds. Mrs. Manocchio explains she usually budgets to breakeven but she does so that we have something left at the end of the year. Chairperson Rios' concern is that if the funds are not spent accordingly RIDE might interpret as that we don't need the remaining funds. Mr. Ibarra questioned if the current nurse will be included on the pension plan to which Mrs. Manocchio answers that she will be as a regular employee since she is not a certified teacher. The amount reflected on budget is what was originally budgeted for the outgoing nurse that our school shared with the CF district. Lastly, Mrs. Manocchio and Mr. Garcia mentioned that lead staff was asked for their requests for next year to include in the budget.

Agenda Item 3: MAGn'T Team Presentation

Segue's MAGn'T Team is composed of teachers of the exploratory or elective classes of Art, Music, Gym (PE/Health) and Technology. In the course of a year, each Segue student attends these classes once per week. As teachers in the core classes, MAGn'T teachers have high expectations for students in their classes. The teachers in this team demonstrated their creation of a rich, exciting and engaging curriculum where students have the opportunity to explore topics and materials that they are not exposed in the core curriculum and also have some fun. Teachers on the MAGn'T team also teach very successful X-Factor (student selected) classes such as the Fashionistas, Chorus and Guitar to name a few.

The MAGn'T team is also responsible for coordinating and hosting several all-school events such as the Segue Showcase, Fashionista Fashion Show, Segue Play and Street Painting Festival. Segue currently has a newly created Chorus where all students from the three grade levels participate. Another group composed on students from the three grades takes guitar classes and perform. Other students play percussion instruments while others sing and dance. In Art class, students have been able and are encouraged to create meaningful art. Students have been able to participate on a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Currently students of the 6th grade are creating Abstract Art collages.

The PE and Health classes at Segue are designed around NASPE national standards. Lessons are designed to provide all students with maximum physical activity. Segue scholars regularly participate in team building and other activities. Throughout the year Segue has participated in the "Segue Stay Fit" program and the PE/Health class will host the "Segue Hunger Games 2012", which is a field day event where there will be competition amongst the grades.

The Technology class curriculum is designed around the ISTE/NETS and its implementation is designed to help students become independent learners. Students have access and use new technology in terms of computers, media, etc. Throughout the year students have covered several technological systems such as email, search engines, online map programs and Microsoft Office.

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Agenda Item 4: Strategic Connections Work Debrief

Topics discussed:

- Board responsibility
- Policy Development
- Director Evaluation
- Next steps:
 - How do we want to move forward regarding policies
 - Board needs to figure what will be reported to RIDE in regard to Director performance evaluation
 - Examine/Discuss Mr. Cohen’s proposal around the three areas that need to be addressed (student performance, fiscal oversight, and director’s performance) and how to structure it
- Consultants addressed questions regarding the evaluation tool for the Director of Operations
- Design a procedure to follow and implement
- Agenda structure
- Suggestions to look at other policies to learn what sections to include
- Approve committees
- Opinion in terms of too much work vs. not being engaged. Form subgroups for each of the three areas that need to be addressed/worked on. Look at Innovation Plan on how to work in subgroups to deal with the three (3) areas.

Mr. Garcia commented that the Board structure, protocols, and norms will drive the work that the Board needs to do. Practice in the facilitation of Board meetings needs to be further addressed. Chairperson asks the members to offer their comments, suggestions, etc. regarding this.

Lead for Student Performance is Ms. Schachter; no one volunteer to lead the second area, which is Fiscal Oversight, the lead for Director’s Performance is Lauren Schechtman. Further discussion ensued about what role other Board members will have (for those who did not volunteer for one of the three areas). Chairperson encouraged those in attendance to think about all that was discussed for future meeting. Chairperson will send out an email with meeting wizard to determine when this discussion will continue.

Agenda Item 5: Director of Operations Report

Topics Discussed:

- School Innovation Plan invite (every other Monday meetings)
- Bid on building
 - \$125,000 for 325 Cowden Street
 - \$50,000 for 361 Cowden Street
 - Challenges
- Rechartering – RIDE
 - Board presentation – April 24, 25, 29, all day visits

Agenda Item 6: New Business

Mrs. Hoffens made an announcement regarding the Spring Family Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Ms. Schachter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm, motion was second by Chairperson Rios and approved by all remaining members.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved By: Print Name:

Signature:

Grace M. Rivera

Date:

Time: