



Segue Institute for Learning

Where ALL Students are "AT PROMISE"

325 Cowden Street – Central Falls, RI – 02863

Phone – (401) 721-0964 * Fax – (401) 721-0984 * Website – SegueIFL.org

Angelo Garcia – Founder/Head of School

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday, August 26, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 by Jesse Cohen.

Roll Call –

Present were Jessica Brown, Jesse Cohen, Lucy Rios, Lauren Schechtman and James Setaro.

Absent were David Rathier, Tia Ristaino-Siegel and Nelly Vargas-Hoffens.

Segue staff present were – Angelo Garcia, Head of School, Ann Manocchio, Head of Finance/Operations and Grace Rivera, Operations Assistant and Staff Secretary to the Board, Segue Lead Staff.

Quorum – five of the nine Board members present.

Mr. Cohen recognizes Ms. Steve Nardelli of the League of Charter Schools. Mr. Nardelli briefly thanked Board members and those present for what they do as a charter school. The purpose of his visit was to address the Board and staff and provide a handout detailing the services the League of Charter Schools offers its membership. He further mentioned that advocacy by the League is not a one-time event but a process, it is for the most part a one person operation mostly undertaken behind the scenes, making policy to allow charter schools to move forward and flourish. Although at the beginning the process was "horrific", the League has made sure decision makers have the information they need. Mr. Nardelli asked those present to read the document he has provided for further information.

Mrs. Schechtman asked if all charter schools are members of the League. Mr. Nardelli responded that currently there are 16 charters school members. Ms. Rios asked what kind of governing model does the League have, to which Mr. Nardelli responded that is basically structured in committees. Mr. Garcia mentioned that he has brought to the Board his concerns regarding the League. Having no further questions, Mr. Nardelli thanked the Board once more and exited the meeting.

Mr. Cohen made a point of clarification to Mr. Garcia in regard to Board member committee descriptions. Before moving forward on the approval of the minutes of July 20, Board members took a couple of minutes to read these minutes. Board reconvened at 5:57 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 20, 2013 Board meeting were approved with two minor edits. Lauren Schechtman motion to approve minutes and James Setaro second. Group reach consensus with no opposition and no further discussion. Point of clarification from Mr. Cohen regarding spelling out the names of two Board members mentioned on page 3 of the minutes. The secretary will make these changes accordingly. Motion to accept the minutes with the changes mentioned was made by Mrs. Lauren Schechtman and second by Mrs. Jessica Brown. Group reached consensus with no opposition and no further discussion. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

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Reports –

Wellness Policy:

The Health and Wellness policy was presented by Matthew Kerwin, Segue's Health and Fitness teacher along with James Setaro, Board member. Overall the policy's main goal is to promote a healthy school environment by supporting activities of good nutrition, wellness, and regular physical activity. Mr. Kerwin expressed what will be considered healthy eating and the incentives that will be offered when students and staff follow the established guidelines. Additionally, he mentioned that staff could serve as better role models through demonstration of what they consume.

One major obstacle encountered by the committee is that the RI Department of Education mandates 100 minutes minimum per week of Physical Education, Segue currently offers 60 minutes per week. A discussion ensued on how to accommodate the additional 40 minutes on Segue's already long school day without affecting the other educational programs currently in place at the school.

Ms. Lucy Rios asked if RIDE is allowing some type of flexibility regarding the mandated 100 minutes. Mr. Angelo Garcia responds that the biggest challenge is the time factor since Segue has such a long day. It is a struggle not only for Segue but for other schools as well. Mr. Cohen asked if Segue has a time frame, to which Mr. Kerwin responds that we need to work out the structural aspects of the mandate. The fact that Segue offers more than fitness takes us to further conversations on how to best work it out. Mrs. Schechtman asked if we need a time to get it done, both Mr. Garcia and Mr. Kerwin respond that by the spring of 2014 this has to have a projected roll out.

A discussion followed where Mr. Joseph Gravina commented that in order to get it done a part time PE teacher would need to be in place to undertake these specific interventions. Mr. Garcia commented that how would we compromise one area without affecting another. There is an internal struggle on how to incorporate an additional health instructor. Crunching numbers has been difficult. Mrs. Schechtman suggested a PE student to which Mr. Gravina commented that the person would need to be certified in the field. Having no other questions for Mr. Kerwin or Mr. Setaro, a motion to adopt the Health and Wellness policy was made by Mr. Cohen and second by Ms. Rios. Group reached consensus with no opposition and no further discussion. Motion passed.

Head of School –

Mr. Garcia asked the Board to hear Segue's current Lead Staff members as they introduce themselves a speak briefly of what area they are in charge of what they are currently doing. Staff introductions were made by: Mrs. Tenika Ortiz, Director of Counseling and Support; Mr. Joseph Gravina, Director of Technology and Information Systems; Mrs. Melissa Lourenco, Director of Academic Supports; Ms. Sarah Girard, Assistant Director of Academic Supports; Mr. Kevin Montoya, 6th Grade ELA and Lead teacher; Ms. Nina Marold, Art Teacher and MAGN'T² Lead; Ms. Ashley Swanson, Numeracy Coach and Lead; Mrs. Isaura Rua-Cortes, Individual Needs Coordinator; Ms. Kelly Dalton, 8th Grade Science and Lead teacher; Mr. Carlos Miranda, Director of SAFE Team; and Ms. Linda Blair, Student Opportunities/Guidance Coordinator. Ms. Rios asked if the STAR assessment was new. Mrs. Lourenco responded yes and that it will

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