

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 11, 2015

SHEILA “Skip” NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy was held on

February 11, 2014 at Sheila “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy, 43 Hawes Street, Central Falls, RI. Co-Chair Deborah Perry welcomed everyone, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Deborah Perry, Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon, Nancy Wilson and Jodi LaFauci.

Absent: Beata Nelken, Patricia Flanagan, Suzanne Magaziner, Clarice LaVerne Thompson and William Walter

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Deirdre Denning Norton made a motion to accept the agenda.

On a motion duly made by Nancy Wilson and seconded by Toby Simon

it was

VOTED: That the Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy accept the agenda for the meeting of February 11, 2015.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the

negative as follows:

YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon and Nancy Wilson.

NAYS: 0

2. OPEN FORUM

Co-Chair Perry explained to the audience that the Board of Directors will allow for public comment, limited to two minutes per person and beginning with comments pertaining to approval items on tonight's meeting agenda before accepting comments on other topics.

Members of the Board of Directors were asked to give their full attention to speakers but were reminded that they could not engage speakers in conversation or answer questions.

If concerns or questions were raised from Open Forum topics, the Board could direct staff to follow up. There was no public comment.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. Deborah Perry reported that she and Jodi LaFauci will continue to develop timeline for the strategic plan.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Michele Cinquegrano and seconded by

Stephanie Gonzalez

it was

**VOTED: That the Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy
accept Minutes of the
Meeting for November 5, 2014.**

**Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members
voted in the
negative as follows:**

**YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez,
Susan
Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph
DiMartino,
Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon
and Nancy Wilson.**

NAYS: 0

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Deborah Perry reviewed the trial
balance submitted in draft by Marcum Accountants who are currently
conducting our audit. Currently, there is \$721,000.000 which is
necessary to open two new facilities.**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Deirdre Denning Norton
reported that the committee had interviewed three candidates for the**

managing director position and would move forward with board approval to hire Michael Commendatore. Mr. Commendatore's resume was provided to the board who discussed his extensive experience in finance and business transactions.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Deirdre Denning Norton presented motion to hire Michael Commendatore as managing director for Nowell Leadership Academy.

On a motion duly made by Susan Gershkoff and seconded by Stephanie Gonzalez it was

VOTED: That Nowell Leadership Academy accept the motion to hire Michael Commendatore as managing director for Nowell Leadership Academy.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan

Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino,

Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon and Nancy

Wilson.

NAYS: 0

b. Co-chair Deborah Perry presented a motion to hire Nixon Peabody for legal services related to personnel.

On a motion duly made by Michele Cinquegrano and seconded by Toby Simon it was

VOTED: That Nowell Leadership Academy accept the motion to hire Nixon Peabody for legal services.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan

Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino,

Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon and Nancy

Wilson.

NAYS: 0

8. HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

a. Jodi LaFauci updated the board on meetings and activities related to the funding commission hearings on the state funding formula in

regards to local and state education funds. The commission is hearing testimony from superintendents requesting a change in the formula that decreases dollars to charter schools. Jodi attends meetings at the League of Charter Schools and has attended meetings at the State House. Next meeting scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2015.

b. Jodi LaFauci toured the RIDE report detailing teacher evaluation for the 2014SY. Nowell had 7 teachers with an effective rating and 1 teacher developing. She explained the evaluation system is used for all teachers in RI public schools and provided a summary of these results to the board. There was further discussion as Nowell plans to connect the evaluation ratings to teachers' raises. Jodi will continue to work with the finance committee and create a step-increase/ salary scale for certified teachers.

c. Jodi LaFauci submitted the End of Year Report to RIDE on December 13, 2014. This was a scripted template electronically sent to each charter school. The board received printed copies of the report.

d. Jodi LaFauci, Rebeca Filomeno-Nason, and two parent coordinators: Kimberly Pineda and Johanny Toribio presented at the RI Alliance Annual Meeting on January 21, 2015. There were over 60 representatives at this meeting which addressed the status of RI pregnant and parenting teens. Deborah Perry commented that she also attended the meeting and said the Nowell team presentation was a great accomplishment for the school in sharing information detailing the progress of the mission.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-5(a)(2) - sessions pertaining to litigation; reasonably anticipated litigation involving former employees.

i. Motion to conclude Executive Session and reconvene Open Session

ii. Vote to seal minutes/votes taken during Executive Session if disclosure of such minutes/votes in Open Session would jeopardize any strategy, negotiation or investigation undertaken pursuant to discussions conducted under §42-46-5(a)

On a motion duly made by Nancy Wilson and seconded by Joseph DiMartino it was

VOTED: That the Nowell Leadership Board of Directors enter into Executive Session.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon, Nancy Wilson

NAYS: 0

10. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion duly made by Michelle Cinquegrano and seconded by Misty Delgado it was

VOTED: That the Nowell Leadership Board of Directors vote to seal the minutes of the Executive Session.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Michele Cinquegrano, Misty Delgado, Stephanie Gonzalez, Susan Gershkoff, Gigi Dibello, Joseph DiMartino, Deirdre Denning Norton, Toby Simon, Nancy Wilson

NAYS: 0

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gigi Dibello with no objections.

Co-Chair Perry adjourned the meeting at 6:48 PM.