

# **SouthSide Elementary Charter School**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 14, 2014**

**4:00- 5:25 pm**

### **Board meeting of April 14, 2014**

**In attendance: Julie Casimiro, Jonathan Conklin, Dan Corley, Antoinette Gomes, Leah Williams Metts, Lela Morgan, Carmen Rodriguez, Judy Ryan, David Vanech, and Francisco Velasquez**

**Members absent: Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan**

**Guests present: Rina Consuegra and Kas DeCarvalho**

**1. Review of minutes—there was some question regarding which was the final version of the minutes. Mostly the issue is that there was some disagreement about who was named to which committees at the last meeting. Those choices were made and the committee list is now accurate.**

**2. Review of Raphael's report - he was unable to attend the meeting. The only questions asked involved the Abila software system that was chosen—quite expensive—but unfortunately it is the system that was required by the state.**

**3. Report about enrollment—we are full at 12 boys and 12 girls.**

**Loose report about other parent visits that have come to pass...**

**-Question to the Education Committee for discussion: Should we take an extra child—we won't get paid for the extra student, but if a child drops out of the program, the extra student would be there to fill in.**

**-Drew Allsopp was concerned in a recent conversation with Dan about whether or not the Community Prep staff have an "inside track" to filling openings at SouthSide? Drew suggested that the kinds of questions he'll get are, "Is the rent fair? And is this a conversion of a private school into a charter school?"**

**-There was some concern that Brendan Corley, Dan's son, was being considered as a part-time computer consulting person. But to be certain that we were not running afoul of ethics regulations, we had three bids, and Corley was about half of the next highest bid.**

**Legal counsel commented that this was a different situation from hiring someone who also works at Community Prep, because Brendan is Dan's son. So the Board was brought in to be sure that the process was fair and open. The three bids were discussed, and it was discussed that Brendan also has previously shown as expert and knowledgeable with the proposed computer system.**

**The board determined, by motion and second, that with the**

understanding that SS contacted RIDE to determine a process prudent to undertake regarding the hiring of Dan Corley's son, Brendan Corley, and that with that discussion in mind, the Board asked for Dan Corley and chair Eileen Hayes, and the review of the three bids that were put forward (including one by Brendan Corley), and the determination that Brendan Corley's quoted rate was materially lower than the next bid, the board voted to continue to use Brendan Corley's consulting services, and/or to hire Mr. Corley as an employee.

Second—the board made the decision to hire Rina as the outreach coordinator (currently on a consulting basis). Because she is also connected to the Community Prep, should the process be gone through regarding her hire?

Third—we had the same discussion with respect to Amy Tellier—who was hired as the SS business manager on a consulting basis. (Note, her rate of \$40/hr. is also very reasonable. Typically a consulting bookkeeper charges \$60/hr. and consulting business manager charges \$80+/hr.)

4. RIDE's Drew Allsopp had an issue with the \$/sq. foot price being paid by SS. According to him, normal per sq. foot costs are \$9-13, vs. SS's \$18.5/ft. in 2020. However, based upon our additional amenities provided (including both space itself, use of gym, janitorial services, and free off-street parking, plus Community Prep putting \$450K into

**this building, maintenance), we feel that our numbers are more than defensible. Counsel's advice on this was to appreciate that this issue was brought up as a potential question, and that we should proactively have an answer to that concern. Further, as a going matter, perhaps not in the next year or two, but certainly eventually, the Board can and should continue to question whether the leasehold costs numbers make sense.**

**5. We did receive the \$50K grant from RI Foundation, \$35K from the Carter Foundation. Kas recommended that the Board consider using our constituency (the kids, crayons, giant thank you cards) to express our thanks, and raise our chances of continuing to raise our chances for grants in the future.**

#### **Committee Updates:**

**-Education - Discussion regarding current hiring process of choosing between candidates. As of now, we have planned a process for vetting the current candidates, based upon their relative experience and credentials and certification. The Committee representative stated that their hiring discussions would be hugely assisted by an idea of what their budget is to work with. Dan Corley reviewed that we have \$55K for full-time teacher, and approx. \$60K for 1.5 partners. We also have \$5K for stipends and bonuses and a \$10K contingency fund.**

**-Finance – Met to discuss the personnel policies. Will meet again to**

**review the budget.**

**-Governance - Will meet to delineate the hiring process. They also will outline the process and guidelines for public comment to the Board**

**New Business: None.**

**Public comment: None**

**Next meeting: June 9, 2014 at 4 p.m.**

**The meeting ended at 5:25 p.m.**