

SouthSide Elementary Charter School

Minutes – Board Directors Meeting

August 24, 2015

4:30 p.m.

Present: Lela Morgan, Carmen Rodriguez, Madeline Burke, Al Speaks, Ava Vanech, Eileen Hayes, Dan Corley, John Welch, Wendy Randle, Francisco Velasquez, Kas DeCarvalho

- 1. Call to order at 4:35**
- 2. Welcome & Introductions**
- 3. Public Comment – no one present for public comment**
- 4. Approval of Minutes – W. Randle will request minutes from Leslie**
- 5. Start Time for Board Meetings is 4:30; Committee meetings will start at 4:00.**
- 6. Education Director's Report – W. Randle provided a bulleted list of what has been accomplished since the last meeting as well as the status of the opening of school; board members were informed about the concerns raised in relation to the K-1 integration and the departure of the previous Education Director**
- 7. Kas provided recommendations for how to communicate the former Education Director's departure: "We are still working towards the attainment of the mission, Board is still committed to the school and the mission; we wish him the best; if people are looking for more explanation, we need to respect the privacy and confidentiality of the former Education Director." Eileen further stated that moving forward,**

we will be better communicators in relation to staff transitions; Eileen also suggested that Dan speak about the K-1 Rationale at the August 25th Town Hall. Dan explained the rationale as follows: Each student has a teacher for two years which leads to more individualization and small group work; Carmen raised the concern about core instruction and the utilization of Reading Street; The Interim Education Director attempted to explain that students' baseline data will be used to determine group configurations for whole group core reading instruction. Francisco suggested that the Interim Education Director have the conversation with the teachers in relation to this concern and we will determine when core instruction will take place; Ava questioned whether 2nd grade will stand alone next year and Dan confirmed that 2nd grade will stand along next year and the following year, grades 2 and 3 will be integrated.

8. Update on search committee

a. Narrowed applicants down to six, three interviews on 8/29 and three 9/2

b. If any more applicants apply during the first round, they will still be reviewed as possible candidates.

9. Handbook was reviewed; edits will be submitted to Interim Education Director by Friday, August 28, 2015; the subject of a discipline policy was raised by Al Speaks and we determined that the School Improvement Team would be the best committee to draft a formal discipline policy; SIT will be in place by October 1st as per the recommendation of Lela Morgan; Carmen Rodriguez suggested reaching out to Amos House and Bradley to recruit community

members; Kas suggested a written policy that reflects the creation of a SIT and a quarterly report-out at Board Meetings; Carmen Rodriguez mentioned that the SIT might now be called a Learning Leadership Team and she would follow up with her principal to determine if this is a state requirement or terminology that is specific to PPSD.

10. The Enrollment Policy was reviewed. A discussion took place about the 6-month language in relation to a potential student of a staff member. Kas stated that when possible, the school should leave itself enough room as possible; the friction is the child that is coming in at the detriment of another student on the waiting list; Antoinette suggested inserting the word “employed” at least 5 hours per week at SouthSide Elementary Charter School; Antoinette made a motion to change this language; Madeline seconded the motion. Revisions were made to the Enrollment Timeline changing the application due date to February 21st and removing the November 4th date.

11. John provided an overview of the budget; last year, Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility data was not submitted to the state and we missed out on funding. This year, we will meet the deadline of October 1, 2015 and we will receive our funding. Next year’s Title I funding will increase; a handout of the implementation grant reflects where we are at now - \$139,000; next month’s budget overview will reflect August’s spending, which was substantial; classroom supplies and instructional materials needed to be ordered in order to

launch the school year.

12. Adjourn 5:55 – Lela made a motion to adjourn which was seconded.

Board Committees – The Governance Committee is chaired by Francisco. The Finance Committee is chaired by Dan. We need a chair for the Education Committee and Ava offered to take on this role on a temporary basis.

Next Board Meeting – September 14, 2015 at 4:30