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**Minutes of the Pioneer Springs Community School
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 25th, 2015 – 6:33-10:19 pm**

Location: Pioneer Springs Charter School Campus

In Attendance:

Board members present:

Abigail Jennings (Chairman)

Erik Giles (Vice Chairman)

Kristin Clewell (Secretary)

Heather Labenson (Treasurer)

Mark Barney

Mary Coppola

Others in Attendance:

Laura Mock (Director)

Randolph Lewis (Founding Director)

Erin McDonald (Founding Director)

Mary Mix (Nature Director)

Brian Hicks (parent)

Aaron Williams (parent)

Jamie Hopkins (parent)

Karen Hopkins (parent)

Kim Richards (parent)

Heidi Magi (parent)

Maggie Pozoroski (parent)

Beth Adams (parent)

Alex Gallo (parent)

Jorge Gallo (parent)

Established a quorum, Abigail calls meeting to order at 6:33.

Erik made a made motion to approve July 2015 regular and closed minutes, Heather seconds, all in favor.

Financials

Heather presented the Balance sheet, Profit and Loss sheet, and Statement of Cash Flow. This past July PSCS was expecting 34% of state funding but only received 20% due to NC General Assembly's continued budget deliberations.

Mary made a motion to approve July financials, Erik seconds, all in favor.

Facility Update:

- The Red Barn CO was received in time for school to start
- 2 successful workdays recently
- Passed environmental reports
- Abigail contested the appraisal but was denied. Need to postpone purchasing Davis property due to the decreased appraisal amount, will continue to rent for now. Still need to build the turn lane for this property. Seeking new investors to help with this.
- Widening Bob Beatty is still in the works.

Director's Report:

Laura reported a middle school task force was created. They need to consider technology use, like how it is being used K-5. For example student lead conferences and the arts.

Laura wants to go back to Evergreen School in Asheville to interview middle school staff. Need to consider our space for activities such as agriculture and the "lost arts" (i.e. quilting and masonry). Hopefully by December the middle school taskforce will have a detailed report.

Need to renew new and current staff contracts for this current school year. Laura reported Stacy Winslow will be a new second grade teacher assistant. She has yoga experience and owns her own therapy company. Christina Licata has move to a full time position.

Erik made a motion to approve all new and renewing staff contracts for the 2015-2016 school year, Mark seconds, all in favor.

Academic Excellence Committee Report:

Mary presented part 2 of the Academic Excellence report

1. Staff Development

- Dr. Jack Piel of UNC Charlotte provided staff training in August. Laura bought Singapore Math program on his recommendation. He also recommended Margaret Ann as a mentor for PSCS.
- Lucia Washam of CSD will provide additional math staff development.
- Mary Mix will help teachers integrate math skills with thematic centers.

2. BOG math test

- Laura purchased a license for third and fourth grade math BOG. Third grade will take the test the week of Sept. 1ST and the fourth grade the week of Aug 24th. The results will be used to help plan the scope and sequence.

3. Sharing Test Results

- Laura wrote a PSCS parent blog in Aug. to share pertinent information with the school community.

4. K-2 Assessments

- Mary C. and Mary M will meet to share CSD and PSCS sample assessments and then meet with K-2 staff.

Laura explained to the parents why the math BOG is helpful to students to be exposed to the test and to see their response but done in the PSCS way. Erik noted retention of information is most important not just the ability to pass the test.

Governance Committee Report:

Completed the annual review of the board evaluation and the board signed the new Code of Conduct. Erik presented the results of the annual board self-evaluation. It revealed we are strong with the management of funds, mission/vision, and how the board brainstorms creative solutions. Opportunities noted were for the board to evaluate the effectiveness of its performance, oversight of academic performance goals, and careful consideration of the administration's proposals.

Mark reported that the grant effort is moving forward and is creating a new taskforce.

Board Annual Strategic Planning

Abigail introduced the SOAR method of strategic planning:
S-strengths; what we are doing well
O-opportunities – solutions for opportunities to improve on
A- advantages – what advantages would this goal have
R- reach – where and who are we reaching with these goals

The board brainstormed the following:

Academic Excellence

Goals:

1. Add another committee member with aligned philosophy and strong educational background.
2. Better defined measures.
3. Consolidation of cumulative data using report cards.

Based on parent feedback a discussion ensued about natural consequences and how this relates to the outside world.

A parent voiced concerns about her own child's experiences in the classroom. Mary C. suggested this is not the venue for this due to confidentiality and proper procedures. It would best be addressed in a small group, possibility in Pioneer Voices or with Laura in administration. Laura is happy to discuss with families in confidential confines and help paint a picture of what day-to-day looks like at school.

A parent presented a possible goal of are our children making the social/emotional gains they need to.

4. Creation of measureable goals for non-academic goals: emotional, social, physical.

After additional parent comments about their own children, Erin clarified that staff is available to learn about parent concerns regarding their individual child, but a private meeting needs to be requested.

5. Review protocols for discipline and classroom management.

6. Middle school taskforce

7. Search for middle school director.

8. Technology taskforce

9. Testing preparation.

Governance

Goals:

1. Diversity in future board members.

2. Board succession planning

3. Review last year's goals and discuss.

4. Board education.

Mark wants to ensure that good communication and openness remains between the board and administration. Discussed how we can keep bringing up items that were tabled.

Finance

Mary C. complimented the finance committee.

Goals:

1 Creating a five-year budget.

2. Raise funds for capital improvements.

3. Reduce expenses to secure fiscal success.

4. Consider expenses, re: long-term financial goals and mission.

5. Grant writing; Wendy is working on available federal EC grants. Mark is leading all other grant writing efforts.

Facilities

Goals:

1. Middle School site and funding; room and site specs.

2. Build turn lane.

3. Widen Bob Beatty.

4. Establish regular build and grounds committee.

5. Music garden.

6. Maintenance shack.

Community

Goals:

1. More press releases and public relations.
2. Community outreach for capital campaign.
3. Tap into National Network for Green and Nature Schools.
4. Become a "Green School"
5. Global calendars for staff and parents (separate).
6. Organization of community talents.

No other comments from group.

At 9:55 Heather made a motion to move into closed session to discuss privileged information about facility expansion, Mark seconds, all in favor.

At 10:18 Kristin made a motion to move out of closed session, Heather seconds, all in favor.

Next board meeting is September 22nd 2015.

Heather made a motion to adjourn, Mark seconds, all in favor.

Adjournment at 10:19 pm

August 25th, 2015 Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Clewell.



Kristin Clewell, Secretary