



www.PioneerSprings.org

PO Box 95, Cornelius, NC 28031 - 9200 Bob Beatty Road, Charlotte, NC 28269 - 704.236.9610

**Minutes of the Pioneer Springs Community School
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 28th, 2015 - 6:41-8:42 pm**

Location: Pioneer Springs Charter School Campus

In Attendance:

Board members present:

Abigail Jennings (Chairman)

Erik Giles (Vice Chairman)

Kristin Clewell (Secretary)

Mary Coppola

Heather Labenson (Treasurer)

Sandy Knox

Mark Barney

Others in Attendance:

Laura Mock (Director)

Wendy Britt

Kristen Krabath

Randolph Lewis (founder)

Erin McDonald (founder)

Maggie Pozoroski (parent)

Mary Mix

Established a quorum, Abigail calls meeting to order at 6:41.

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

Financials

Heather presented the Balance sheet and Profit and Loss sheet. Heather noted the Jump Jam total changed from 611.00 to 529.30. The textbook credit was for returned books. There is a new document that will be presented each month titled Statement of Cash Flow. This month's Statement of Cash Flow is shows a positive cash flow for the year. Abigail presented financials also as pie charts. No more questions regarding financials from the board.

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

Director's Report:

Laura reported this is staff training week and it is going well. Mary Mix is leading the training.

Enrollment at PSCS is still full and there are waitlists for each grade. Staff is getting ready for the Summer Social.

Academic Excellence Committee Report:

Mary reminded board that AE Committee looks at 3 things: Curriculum, Materials, and Assessment. Reflected on how much staff and school population grew this year.

One of the March AE Committee recommendations had been to create inventory lists. Maria is actively working on this.

In regards to Assessment, teachers now have "survival" binders to make sure there is a standard assessment across each grade level at PSCS (this also includes important areas such as fine motor skills, gross motor skills, social/emotional development).

Mary discussed trends that have been identified. PSCS's BOG scores were slightly above state scores and teachers used the testing information to target certain areas with the students. As discussed earlier in the year, 3rd grade has the highest percentage of students requiring IEP support. At the August meeting we will discuss results of K-2 assessments.

2014-2015 BOG 3rd grade results:

Math: 27% passed

Reading: 73% passed the 1st time and the Read to Achieve retakes increased to 78% passing.

These scores indicate a growth in reading comprehension and specific language arts skills. Math scores showed trends including difficulties with addition/subtraction and regrouping.

Implications of BOG scores:

1. maintain communication with staff and parents about testing
2. celebrate successes; study aspects of greatest growth
3. assessment must be tied closely to instruction, consider EOG format
4. use results to guide staff development

Board discussed how PSCS is a new school and this was our 1st year with these students. Anticipate students will become more willing to take risks with learning the longer they are exposed to our philosophy.

Mark questioned how the school can teach test taking strategies and still fit in PSCS philosophy. Mary Mix and Wendy assured Mark that this is already being done to a certain extent.

Mary referred back to original school charter for goals that were set.

Performance Standard #1

Year #1: Use test scores to establish baseline of EOG results

Year #2: 85% passing rate

Year #3: 90% passing rate

Performance Standard #2

Years 2-5 PSCS will be recognized as a high growth school (currently this seems attainable)

Laura reminded everyone to be careful what we judge the school on, both successes and not successful aspects.

Erik commented that PSCS could teach wording and how to translate word problems into more familiar formats and still stay within the philosophy.

Mary C noted that in grades 3-5 need to start reading to learn. Since 78% of students have now "cracked the code" to reading, this will impact math reading skills.

Mark questioned if we don't measure students by the EOGs, then how and Laura noted that this is what our highly detailed report cards are for. Discussed how to compile report card information to look across whole grade levels.

Also discussed creating an internal BOG for Math at Pioneer Springs to help us know where our students are at the start of the year. Laura will work on creating this. Math will also be a focus in this year's staff development training.

Kristen K noted that even though we don't celebrate state assessments as a school, it is still a way to help parents and the community believe in our philosophy.

Erin brought up that we must be open and honest with parents to make them feel safe. Mary C will write a paragraph to help teachers be consistent when talking to parents about testing.

Kristen K indicated that the biggest reason families left PSCS is due to moving and then is to change to a sibling school due to it being physically difficult to drive to more than 1 school. No one left due to test scores.

Mary Mix has accepted a position on the Academic Excellence Committee and Lucia Washam has been approached.

Governance Committee Report:

Abigail and Erik completed the Director Evaluation Report. Laura had to provide artifacts for the 7 standards. Abigail briefly reviewed and stated Laura passed satisfactorily.

Abigail presented:

1. 2015-2016 calendar, will change board meetings from last to 4th Tuesday of the month
2. Strategic calendar for next year
3. Contact information for Board of Trustees

Facilities Update:

Abigail presented the following updates:

Red Barn is still on track to be finished by the 1st week of August.

In regards to road widening, we need to apply for a new permit as the original one was not valid.

Turn lane is still in progress but going well.

Maggie asked where classes will be this year. Abigail explained Kindergarten will be in the Red Barn, 1st and 3rd in Croft, and 2nd and 4th in the Davis House.

No other public comments.

Mark made a motion at 8:17 to move into closed session to discuss confidential information in regards to future facility plans. Kristin seconds, all in favor. Kristen remained present, as she is part of the Facility Committee.

Mary made a motion to move out of closed session at 8:29, Mark seconds, all in favor.

Wendy made a proposal to amend the Homebound Policy to indicate when the student is allowed to come back to school with a doctor's note and all medical precautions. Erik made a motion to approve amended Homebound Policy, Sandy seconds, all in favor.

Will complete strategic planning next month and include compilations of data from student report cards.

Next board meeting is August 25th 2015.

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

Adjournment at 8:42 pm

July 28th, 2015 Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Clewell.

Kristin M Clewell

Kristin Clewell, Secretary