

## DRAFT OSCS Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2015

Members Present: David Thompson, Sue Woltanski, Joe Thompson, Beth Kamenstein, Kim Carter, Jonathan Raiche, Bridget Dangel, Ariel Pohlek

Principal: Jennifer Flores

Guests: Lizie Heilbron, Juliane Roberts, Sarah Smith, Thomas Cruz-Wiggins, Shaunnessey Locardi, Whitney MacEachern, Carla Tiedemann, Robert Zlockie, Sharon Burley, Abby Brunke, Jim Horan, Virginia Indell, Louis Indell, Elizabeth Ender, Kristen Giordano, Daniele Kasper, and Hillary Cassel

5:09 Dave called meeting to order.

### Consent Agenda:

Sue requested a change in wording be made to the October meeting minutes. Beth motioned to approve the October minutes with the change. Bridget seconded the motion. Motion passed. Financials were tabled for December meeting.

### Action Items:

A.) Shaunnessey Locardi addressed the board, teachers and all guests present, regarding a recent incident in which she believes her child was the victim of bullying during class at OSCS. She explained her side of the story and then she requested that the perpetrator(s) not go unpunished. Jonathan asked Ms. Locardi what she would like to see done, to which she replied that she would like to see the child or children involved make a public apology. Teacher, Daniele Kasper commended Jenn on how well she handled the situation even under the circumstances, since Jenn was away at a teacher convention during the incident. Daniele also reassured the parents in attendance that she and the other OSCS teachers take bullying very seriously. Jenn then explained that she has met with the teachers and is currently trying to determine which children were involved, a difficult task, as the bullying was in the form of notes. Bridget asked the child's mother, Shaunnessey Locardi, about her son's demeanor that day upon returning home from school. Shaunnessey replied that her son was initially happy about the compliments in the notes until he realized that the compliments were not sincere. He was most upset by the more threatening notes, which she said are the main issue that she wants addressed. She went on to say that she does not blame the school or the staff at all for this incident. Teacher, Thomas Cruz-Wiggins, requested single desks for his students as a remedy for some of the overly chatty behavioral issues. Sue asked Jenn to give us a report on her bullying resolution at the next board meeting. Jenn concluded the bullying discussion segment of the board meeting by announcing that she plans to have training for teachers on how to deal with victimization as well as a parent education night on bullying in general. She also said that she plans to discuss the following with the students:

1. Group Mentality – where kids join in on bullying with no actual bad intentions
2. True Bullying – where the intention is to cause distress

- B.) Jenn presented the board with a letter from the landlord, which was also emailed to all board members. Sarah Smith, who was in attendance to represent the landlord, stated that fire department approved access is currently already in place. She reminded the board that the reason this issue has come up is that there is a particular person who likes to visit the school and who uses a wheelchair, but does not wish to disturb staff by calling and having someone come out and unlock the gate. She suggested that to remedy the situation that OSCS at its own expense, remove the locked gate and replace it with a gate with a push bar system for exit, which would also require a fence for the preschool yard to keep those kids safe and away from the street. The gate could have a key on the outside that could be locked at night. Jenn added that she has spoken with the Fire Marshall who told her that it is possible to have a security password key pad on the gate. Jenn also has an appointment with the Fire Marshall especially scheduled at OSCS so that the Fire Marshall can explain exactly what it will take to be compliant and still accommodate the visitor in question and other such visitors. Jenn said that she intends to report her findings at the December board meeting as well as a feasible plan that is compliant and the costs involved to implement.
- C.) Sarah Smith stated that Steve, the landlord, is coming to the December board meeting to discuss further, but that the Island Montessori will close and the space will be offered to OSCS for four years with an option for another five years. The four years in the first offer option is due to the fact that OSCS's charter expires in four years. Steve has also offered to replace the main canvas awnings and split the cost with OSCS.
- D.) Jenn reported that we currently have two 14-passenger busses and she is currently in discussions with the school district regarding what the inspections entail. The Monroe County School District requires inspections every thirty school days. Beth asked how much the inspections cost and Jenn replied that she is currently in negotiations with them regarding the cost. She is considering getting our own private inspector if it is more cost effective.
- E.) Jenn announced that she is waiting for answers from the playground inspectors. Our current rock covering failed the drop test. Jenn will have a report at the next board meeting.
- F.) Jenn distributed MCSD test result charts to the board. As the tests administered were all new at the time, there is little data to be discovered as to the meaning of the results, but overall feeling is positive.
- G.) By-laws are tabled for the December board meeting.
- H.) Jenn's evaluation is tabled. Beth asked what preparations need to be made in advance of the next board meeting in order to be prepared to do Jenn's evaluation. Dave stated that he will reach out to the consortium for guidelines.

Sue motioned to adjourn. Bridget seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Carter