

DRAFT OSCS Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2016

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

Principal: Jennifer Flores

Guests: Robert Gutierrez, Jessica Martinez, Hillary Cassel, Gary Wolfson, Carole Hoeltje, Danielle Castellaccio, Sylvie Turner, Lizzie Heilbron, Dani Rounseville, Whitney MacEachern, Raymond Bonachea, Kristen Giordano

5:07 Dave called meeting to order.

President Dave moved the consent agenda item to the bottom of this meeting's agenda.

- A) Robert Gutierrez of Academia Couture presented his school uniform program. It was decided that parents need to be invited to attend the March 28, 2016 board meeting in order to discuss uniforms further.

- B) The search committee chair person, Danielle Rounseville, announced that the search committee has come up with a list of suggested interview questions for candidates for the principal position. She also said that the committee has not yet established a closing date (deadline after which new resumes will not be considered). She added that they have received about eighty (80) resumes so far. Sue interjected that the board should have been presented with the job description prior to it being posted and that the board would have liked to have approved the job description first. Dave directed the search committee to provide the board with regular updates in the future as to each step of the hiring process. He added that the search committee will likely have a list of candidates available for the March 28 board meeting.

Sue motioned that the March 28, 2016 board meeting agenda will include time for the board to discuss the interview process for the final candidates. Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- C) Bridget announced three scenarios she has come up with for the VPK expansion. Discussion ensued regard possible plans for the VPK. Beth suggested that OSCS operate the VPK as DBA Island Montessori School and have Sylvie take applications for the new school year. This would entail keeping the same staff in place. Further discussion ensued as to whether Bridget would entertain the idea of taking on the VPK director position. Multiple guests chimed in on this topic, stating that in their opinions any discussion of a board member taking on a staff position should not be discussed at a board meeting with such a board member present. Bridget answered the guests by assuring them that she has not sought out a position and that it apparently came up due to practical matters. Sue said that she would like to explore the legal options as to Bridget's ability to consider this possible opportunity. Sue added that she would also like to determine Bridget's interest level. Dave said that we will table this conversation to be discussed at a "special call" board meeting on March 7, 2016 at 4:30pm. This "special call" meeting will be exclusively for discussion on the direction OSCS will take with regard to a VPK program.

- D) Jenn passed out handouts to each board member explaining the OSCS Science Program. Sue expressed deep concern for what she views as diminishing science

classroom time at OSCS in comparison to a few years ago. She cited own son's daily planner that she said says "science", but her son says they do not do science. Jenn explained that as the kids approach middle school age, the curriculum does have less "hand on" science. This is an intentional effort to prepare them for a non-Montessori learning environment in middle school. Jenn added that she will investigate and find out whether science is being taught every day or not. The majority of board members present expressed the need for OSCS to remain a science-centric school and a Montessori centered school. Jenn will report back to the board at the March 28 meeting as to her findings regarding how often science is being taught. Sue ended the conversation by saying that she would like to bring back more days of science into the curriculum if possible.

- E) Jenn announced to the board that the Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament Silent Auction was a success, and although proceeds were not as high as projected, the tournament director was impressed with our silent auction items, set up, and team, and has already offered us the spot again next year. Jenn went on to say that with high winds and Super Bowl that night the number of attendees was extremely low, but that next year should be better.
- F) Dave expressed the need to try and negotiate a better lease agreement with Steve the landlord, especially with regard to the ADA compliance issues.

Sue motioned that Dave be the main contact for lease negotiations. Beth seconded. Motion passed.

- G) Jenn said that the canopy project is not included in the budget. We will receive the portion the landlord has promised, but we do not have our portion included in the budget. On this topic of the need for funds, Beth said that Dave Feder, of Islamorada Community Entertainment, has offered to give OSCS the fundraising opportunity to do parking at Bay Jam this year. Bay Jam is scheduled for Sunday, April 3.

Bridget motioned that we accept Dave's offer and do the Bay Jam parking fundraiser. Sue seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- H) Sue motioned to accept Jonathan Raiche's resignation with sorrow and to send out heartfelt sympathy to his family. We also want to thank him for all his efforts on the board. Ari seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- I) Jenn passed out handouts showing the days she is owed. Bridget asked when Jenn had last signed a contract. Jenn replied that she was never given a contract, and that she has been told that the charter is her contract. She added that she recommends that the board give her replacement a contract upon hiring. Jenn's records show that she is owed 39.25 days in accrued time off. This discussion was tabled for the March 28 meeting.
- J) The consent agenda is also tabled for the March 28 meeting.
- K) Jenn's evaluation team (Dave, Ari and Beth) gave Jenn and the board the results of her evaluation.

David motioned to adjourn at 8:07. Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Carter