

## DRAFT OSCS Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2016

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

Principal: Jennifer Flores

Guests: Ted Pioquinto, Hillary Cassel, Gary Wolfson, Gina Scalisi, William Scalisi, Monica Mendez, Caroline Squire, Gabby Mallidis

5:11 Dave called meeting to order.

Gabby Mallidis, OSCS student, spoke to the board and guests about a flag “experience” she has formulated. She explained that the students’ designed flags and that the teachers have already nominated the three top flags. Gabby asked if the board would be willing to vote in order to select the winning flag. The flag artwork will then be made into a real flag to represent Ocean Studies Charter School.

Jenn introduced Gary Wolfson, the new Manatee Classroom teacher. The board welcomed him to OSCS. Jenn commented that the feedback from staff regarding Gary is very positive.

Consent Agenda:

Sue motioned to approve consent agenda (December minutes and financials). Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Action Items:

- A.) Ted Pioquinto, Staff Accountant from Pribramsky CPA firm, gave his report, stating that the school is in very good shape right now financially. He mentioned that we have a surplus cushion, but that it is important to note that this surplus will be used for teacher pay this summer. Ted added that we are also on target for hitting our financial goals and that Jenn is doing a very good job and is well attuned to costs/expenditures. In closing Ted agreed to come back for our April board meeting. Jenn said that she is currently inquiring as to whether or not the school will receive the 2% tax payments in its account to offset technology purchases. She will have the answer for the board meeting in February.

Beth motioned to move the April board meeting to April 20<sup>th</sup>. Sue seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting time will remain at 5:00pm.

- B.) Jenn announced to the board that she will resign from her position at OSCS in order to return to California and care for her ailing father. She requested that the board hire a replacement that will continue the momentum for the school, students and staff. She went on to say that it is important that the candidates be attuned to the Montessori philosophy of educating the whole child. Jenn had previously notified the board and staff of her resignation via email earlier in the week. She mentioned that she will now be notifying the parents and also stated that ideally the new principal will be hired in time to start work immediately following spring break and work in tandem with Jenn throughout the remainder of the school year and during the summer. Concerns were raised by the board as to the difficulty in paying two principal’s salaries simultaneously.

Sue expressed the need to form a committee to work on hiring a replacement for Jenn. Dave said that the committee should consist of teachers and board members. He asked Bridget if she can serve on the committee and Bridget agreed that she would. Jenn added that parents should also be on the committee and that the committee should have a minimum of five (5) people on it. Beth said that she does not agree that parents need to serve on this committee, especially since many of the board members are also OSCS parents, but Sue reminded everyone that a parent dominated committee could hold closed meetings if required, as long as we allow a maximum of one (1) board member on the committee. Beth suggested that we table Jenn's replacement committee discussion for a later date.

- C.) Expansion: Caroline Squire, OSCS parent, addressed the board regarding the possibility that Ocean Studies Charter School may choose not to have a VPK program. She explained that if OSCS does not have a VPK, that she will have to move her student from Island Montessori to either Island Christian School or Treasure Village Montessori for VPK and that she will not likely then be inclined to re-enroll her student in OSCS for kindergarten (ISC and TVM offer both VPK and Kindergarten). Jenn stated that by her current estimates there are approximately eighteen (18) children from Island Montessori that will be ready for VPK for the 2016-2017 school year.

Beth explained the three expansion scenarios:

- 1) Expand the school to include one hundred sixteen (116) students, the maximum per our charter, and continue with K-5 as the charter currently states. In this scenario OSCS would have just one teacher per classroom, and we would keep our lead teachers, but also keep the non-certified teachers as teacher's aids. With this scenario we would increase revenues by thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). The 30K is derived from the new income from eight additional students less the cost of the additional classroom rent.
- 2) Take the newly available classroom offered for lease by landlord and have it be part of the charter school, to include three-year-olds with the VPK.
- 3) To potentially operated VPK by sub-letting. This is a good option if we can amend the charter in time. (see Dropbox for more details) Jonathan said that he will contact Attorney Dirk Smits to see if he can help expedite the changes to our charter.

- D.) Photo Exhibit: The OSCS Photography Exhibit will be held on February 10, 2016 in Tallahassee. Everyone is invited to attend.

E.) Air Conditioner replacement: Jenn is going to wait until it breaks.

- F.) Flooding: Jenn is still in the midst of receiving quotes for the awning work/gutter work. She will keep the board apprised of her findings.

- G.) Painting hallway to prevent slips and falls: Jenn is working with Ray Bonachea, OSCS parent, to try and find the appropriate paint.
- H.) Bylaws: Jonathan requested that all board members print out the bylaws from Dropbox and hi-lite suggested changes to bring to February board meeting for discussion.
- I.) Handicapped access: Jenn said that the solution to the lock is about one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for the keypad.
- J.) The Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament fundraiser is February 7<sup>th</sup> at Marker 88. Each board member has agreed to bring one high-end handle bottle of liquor for the cooler auction item as well as one additional item for the silent auction.

Jenn announced that the Montessori Conference is in March.

David motioned to adjourn at 7:15. Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Carter