

Integrated Day Charter School
Governing Board Minutes
March 17, 2010

Absent: Jason Jones, Scott Swartz

No public comment

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by Dr. Frank Maletz to accept the February 24 Governing Board Minutes, with two corrections: spelling of Michele and eliminate the words “is on the plus side but it is” at the bottom of page 2. It passed 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions (Laura McMahon and Richard Bennett).

- The Planning Committee will meet on the first Tuesday in April. Board members were asked to email the information requested at the end of the article on strategic planning to George Rezendes.

Director’s Report

- A recent Education Week article provides an update on the Race to the Top grant. House bills that have been drafted, H.B. 5493 & SB 5493 & HB5491, are of particular interest. Some studies show that the senior year of high school is not very productive. The state is piloting a program in which students will take a test to earn a certificate and finish high school at the 10th grade level.

- IDCS will have to decide if we want to “sign on” to the Race to the Top application.

- CMT’s have been completed and make-ups will be given over the next two weeks.

- Upcoming events: see Director’s Report

- The letter received from a parent will be discussed in Executive Session.

Committee Reports

- Governance—the Medical Policies were reviewed. The committee also began working on the policy for reviewing/establishing policies. Work continues on the Food Service Policy and the Evaluation for the Director and Business Manager. All policies approved by the Board are now on the web site.

Terri-Ann Woronecki presented a proposal for music books to start with grades 7-8, at a cost of about \$1400-1500 per grade. We need to make sure the book aligns with the curriculum. A uniform curriculum format is still being sought. Work on the curriculum may need to continue this summer. It was proposed that we use five teachers for five days, at \$30 an hour. The language arts curriculum needs revision next.

Parent Stephanie Jones asked why we don't have an Open House in the fall to discuss academic expectations. In the past, our first or second IDEA meeting of the year has addressed some aspects of this. "Curricular Expectations for 2010-2011" would be a worthwhile topic.

- Finance—see March 3 Minutes for Budget Review details. We cannot get an accurate estimate for insurance costs because our renewal is on September 1. A 17% increase is projected. The IDCS falls under small business rules for insurance, which may be a disadvantage. We need to continue to look into combining forces with other charter schools for insurance coverage. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 7 at 2:45 p.m. Carl Davis will begin looking at possible budget cuts based on last year's list, since there is a deficit.

- A date needs to be set for the architect to work with the Building Committee on the blue building.

- Non-certified Staff Compensation Task Force—The committee met on March 1; recommendations for the Board should be ready for the April 14 Board meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

- A motion was made by Dr. Frank Maletz and seconded by Mary Osten to accept the Medical Policies as written, with the exception of page 20 (Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect). After discussion of several of the policies, the motion was withdrawn. Dr. Maletz will review the medical policies for the April agenda.

- A motion was made by Jen Spangle and seconded by Michele Devine to go into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. to discuss student issues and personnel matters. It passed 9-0.

- The Board entered Executive Session at 6:52 for discussion of student issues and personnel matters.

Executive Session

- A motion was made by Laura McMahon and seconded by Dr. Frank Maletz to exit Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.; it passed 9-0.

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by Dr. Frank Maletz to wave the normal admissions procedure and provide assurance of a kindergarten seat in 2011-2012, even if the school is over-enrolled at kindergarten (up to a limit of 34 students), to a sibling child who may opt not to attend pre-kindergarten due to being already enrolled in a full time program that better meets the child's special needs. It passed 9-0.

- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by George Rezendes to renew the contract of Anna James as the IDCS Director, on terms to be determined based on negotiations between the Director and Board Chair, subject to final approval of the Governing Board. It passed 8-0, with one abstention.

**Integrated Day Charter School
Director's Agenda Items
March 17, 2010**

I Race to the Top Update

The *Education Week* article gives us an update on the latest developments in regard to Race to the Top grant funding. Our board will need to have a discussion and decide if we want our school to participate in the second round of applications.

The second article describes H.B. 5493. Please read the following descriptions of bills that have been drafted.

H.B. 5493, "An act concerning strategic planning in state education policy and charter school funding" would eliminate the use of the annual state appropriation process to fund charter schools and adopt a "money follows the child" funding mechanism instead phased in over several years.

S.B. 5493, "An act concerning school districts and teacher performance programs," would institute a better data system that defines principal and teacher effectiveness in terms of student achievement growth and links teacher and principal training programs to the classroom effectiveness of their graduates.

Section three of **H.B. 5491**, "An act concerning certain school district reforms to reduce the achievement gap in Connecticut," requires schools districts to incorporate student achievement growth in their teacher and principal evaluation systems by July 1, 2011.

II Completion of the Connecticut Mastery Test's

**III Up coming events: Open House April 6th and 7th
Lottery – April 8th
Empty Bowls – April 8th**

IV Parent letter

IV Student Information (executive session)



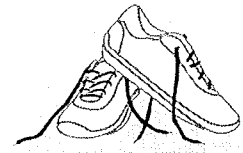
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OUR RACE
TO THE TOP

OUR RACE TO THE TOP

Proposed Legislation: Money Follows the Child

Connecticut's antiquated school finance system is fiscally unsustainable. It is high time that we begin the transition to a common sense, transparent, funding system where money follows children based on their learning needs.

This year we have an important opportunity to begin these financial reforms—and an urgent need to start with our state's high-performing charter schools because of Race to the Top's special emphasis on leveraging the growth of these schools as part of statewide strategies for education reform. The proposed legislation would save Connecticut \$186 million a year it spends to double-fund students who leave traditional public schools for charter, magnet or technical schools.

Proposed legislation would:

- Eliminate the use of the annual state appropriation process to fund charter schools, and adopt a "money follows the child" funding mechanism.
- Base funding for charter schools on the average amount spent to educate students in their school district if they attended a traditional public school.
- Reduce state equalization aid grant payments to cities or towns based on this calculation, allowing funding to flow from the state to the public charter schools.
- Provide "impact aid" to cities and towns if equalization aid grants are negatively impacted, for the first three years after the legislation is passed.

Connecticut is one of just three states where charter schools rely on a separate line-item appropriation in the state budget every year. A "money follows the child" system would fund charter school students equally

instead of at the 75 percent of per-pupil funding as traditional public schools they currently receive and remove the effective cap on charter school students due to this uniquely restrictive funding system. Recognizing the extraordinarily challenging financial circumstances facing both school districts and the state, this transition could be deferred until the state's next two-year budget cycle, and would be phased in with transitional aid to districts over multiple years.

The proposed legislation also provides each charter school with a per-pupil facilities allowance, based on the statewide average of district expenditures and debt service per pupil for the construction, renovation, purchase, acquisition and improvement of land, buildings and equipment.

The proposed legislation would also make charter schools accountable for providing special education services to their student on substantially the same basis as boards of education. Responsibility for out-of-district special education placements would remain with the school district. Charter schools are already eligible to receive special education grants under the current law. The proposed legislation preserves this right, and would also make charter schools eligible to the same extent as boards of education to receive any other state grant.

Race to the Top Points

Federal guidelines allot a **40 points** for states that ensure "successful conditions for high-performing charters and other innovative schools."

WWW.OURRACETOTHETOP.ORG

Finance Committee – 3/3/2010

Agenda/Notes

1. Budget review
 - a. Current Year – estimating \$35,000 carryover for 2010-11 use
 - b. 2010-2011 budget planning
 - i. Level enrollment based grant
 - ii. No ARRA Title funds (federal)
 - iii. Assuming 17% increase in health insurance (+\$105,340)
 - iv. Add 1 para, cut 1 intern (+\$14,000)
 - v. Budget top step for new Special Ed teacher
 - vi. Unemployment costs (+\$8,500)
 - vii. Teacher salaries higher with returnees/schedule shift for education level (+14,000) even with schedule/step freeze
 - viii. Increase in audit costs (+\$5,000)
 - ix. Increase in retiree health insurance costs (+\$18,000)
 - x. Food Service program costing more than historical (+\$15,000)

Impact with other “business as usual” results in \$341,000 deficit. Will look at reductions aligned with last year’s priorities.

The Budget for next year will be refined, with updated projections for year-end carry-over estimates. Budget will also depend on final decisions on charter school funding from the state.

Budget will not be presented for Board approval for at least 2 months.

Curriculum Committee Minutes 3/8

Discussion Items

1. Music teacher, Terri Woronecki, came to the meeting to begin the discussion for the purchase of textbooks for music class.
 - a. Proposal is to begin with books for the 8th and 6th grades and work down the class level as funds are available.
 - b. Cost per grade level for 22 student books with teacher resources is between \$1400 and \$1500 per grade.
 - c. Committee asked for a copy of current music standards to ensure alignment between text and curriculum.

2. Curriculum format
 - a. Teachers need to form a committee to look at and decide if a common format between curricula areas is what we want to do.
 - b. At the professional development on Friday, a request was made for staff members who wanted to be on the language arts committee to look at format for language arts.

3. Summer work
 - a. A proposal will be made to the Board to approve funds for 5 people for 5 days in the summer to work on curriculum. According to the teacher's contract, the hourly rate is \$30.
 - b. This summer's work is for language arts.

4. Current curricula
 - a. Anna James and June Morrone have plans to organize shelves so current curricula will be easier to find and to put away curricula no longer needed/outdated.

5. Open house
 - a. A discussion was started about having an Open House in the fall to discuss academic expectations at the different grade levels. Possibly one of the first two IDEA meetings – September or October.
 - b. Mary Osten will bring the idea to the staff to discuss.

Next Meeting – April 12th

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REQUEST

The strategic planning committee is in the process of planning a Governing Board retreat at which we will discuss and develop will a five-year strategic plan for IDCS. The committee has found the article *NO MORE NAILING JELL-O TO WALLS: STRATEGIC PLANNING MADE CLEAR FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOL SECTOR* by Brian Carpenter and Ed Roth to be a useful resource. In this article Carpenter and Roth identify 12 areas that charter schools should keep in mind when planning. These areas include:

1. **Academic Services** - curriculum, professional development, current federal goals-No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top, tutoring, special education, equipment and class supplies, student assessment and performance needs
2. **Board** - Right people for the right job- meeting state and federal laws, school policy, board training and development
3. **Communication** - methods of communication, meetings, tracking performance, accountability
4. **Discipline/safety** - school policies addressing child safety on campus and in classroom disciplinary measures, busing issues, disaster and emergency policies
5. **Facilities management** - building and land issues
6. **Financial cash** - analysis of cash flow, business planning, budget management and business office staff and development
7. **Marketing**- student retention, teacher recruitment and diversity, parent involvement, competition with other schools
8. **Personnel** - review of staffing needs, salary, wages, benefits, contracts evaluation of staff and
9. **School Improvement** - mission statement, academic goals accountability strategies
10. **Student Services** - before and after school care, food services, transportation, health and social services
11. **Technology** - school wide technology for administration and teaching- hardware, software, communications technology, data retention system security and technology personnel
12. **Education service provider** - contract provisions, financial and property

Also remember that the right person in the right job can move us from a good school to a great school.

Considering the information above along with your knowledge of the current status of IDCS identify those strategic issues that will need to be included on the IDCS strategic plan. Please submit a list of those strategic issues you see as a priority over the next five years that will need to be considered by the IDCS governing board as we develop the schools strategic plan. These items should be submitted to George Rezendes at GeorgeR@idcs.org prior to April 01, 2010. The planning committee will put all this information together at their next meeting and distribute it to all board members. Thank-you for your help with this request.