

Integrated Day Charter School
Governing Board Minutes
February 16, 2011

Absent: Jason Jones

Public Comment

Elizabeth Rider, Jessica St. George, Sarah Edmond, Robin Tavares, Bonnie Ambruso, Tara Southworth and Beth Rudge spoke about the need for and benefits of the day care program. Ms. Edmond suggested the school apply for a grant to renovate the blue building through the Ed and Mary Lord Foundation. Fund raising was suggested as another revenue source. The Board was asked to reconsider their decision to close the EECF at the end of this school year. The Board received a letter from Stephanie Jones as well.

Myron Huntley requested use of the Dining Room for a US Lacrosse training session for youth referees on February 20. He also asked for consideration for future sessions. Myron is donating his time and the only cost to the school would be for utilities.

●A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Frank Maletz to accept the January 19, 2011 Governing Board minutes, with one modification: Michele Devine was present. It passed unanimously.

Director's Report

A letter was received from the State Department of Education outlining certification issues. The school's small grade 7-8 population does not warrant, nor can we afford, to have a teacher for every area. Cross endorsement will be needed in the future. We have one year to comply with the SDE's findings; some of the issues have already been resolved.

The IDCS community needs to appeal to the Governor to increase funding to charter schools, which have been flat funded for four years.

Michele Devine pointed out that some federal grants are coming along for independent schools, such as Race to the Top. The current per pupil expenditure is \$9,300 and must cover all facility expenses, which are not part of other schools' budgets.

A total of six snow days have been taken this year, which will be made up at the end of the school year. Since the 2010-2011 calendar is for 181 days, a request will be made to drop one day and make up the remaining five.

The Elephant's Child dinner theater was a spectacular success with the entire community involved. Staff contributed all of the food and over \$1600 was raised for the Shining

Hope Kibera School for Girls. Norwich Bulletin photos of the event are linked on our web site.

Grandparents Day was also very successful with 72 mostly senior citizens attending. The morning included student-led tours and many of the guests stayed for lunch.

Business Report

The Condo Association's Board is considering changing to a management company to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

The Building Committee still needs to convene to review the architect's documents.

The HVAC unit that services the west side classrooms needs repair. The replacement of two heat exchangers was recommended. Since the cost for this is above the line-item limit, a waiver will be requested so that the work can be done as soon as possible. The unit is operating at only 50% efficiency. A capital expense plan needs to be developed with a time line for replacing some of the big ticket items in the school.

Committee Reports

Due to numerous snow days the only Committee that met was Planning. The Board was given some dates to consider for a half day strategic planning workshop. Preferences should be emailed to Brianne Temple by March 4 along with any goals that need to be addressed. Dr. Maletz purchased five books on Strategic Planning to share with the Board.

The Curriculum Committee gave a curriculum map to teachers for consideration. The 3-4 team shared a very comprehensive unit they did on Africa and the environment.

Discussion/Action Items

Board members were asked to read the five policies provided before the next meeting. The administrative regulations do not need approval, as they are set by the director. The two policies from last month need action tonight.

Brianne Temple commented that the closing of the day care program caught parents off guard, since they had no advance notice that it was a possibility.

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by Frank Maletz to move the discussion, including day care personnel, to Executive Session. It passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Frank Maletz to approve the Policy on Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children. It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Frank Maletz and seconded by Michael Seroussi to approve the Policy on Reports of Suspected Abuse of Mentally Retarded Adults, changing the words “mentally retarded” to “mentally challenged.” It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Michael Seroussi to change the school calendar from 181 days to 180 days and make up the remaining five snow days at the end of the year (June 21 last day, with early dismissal). It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Michael Seroussi to allow Myron Huntley to oversee use of the gym for a Lacrosse clinic for about 35 youth. A certificate of insurance naming the IDCS as additional insured is required. The motion passed unanimously. The Use of Facilities Policy needs review.

- A motion was made by Michele Devine and seconded by Frank Maletz to authorize the bid waiver for HVAC repair (\$4,255 to replace both heat exchangers). It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by June Morrone to go into Executive Session: It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Frank Maletz and seconded by Brianne Temple to come out of executive session at 7:43 p.m. It passed unanimously.

Michele Devine had to leave the meeting early.

- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Frank Maletz to deny a leave of absence request submitted by Jayme Keefe for the 2011-2012 school year. It passed unanimously.

- A Motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Michael Seroussi to approve a leave of absence request submitted by Debra Allard for the 2011-2012 school year. It passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the comments made regarding the closure of the day care program and considered there could have been better communication prior to the decision being made. While the closure decision will not be reopened, the Board agreed that options for providing before and after school care should be explored.

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by Paul Rak to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. It passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

