

Integrated Day Charter School  
Governing Board Minutes  
January 19, 2011

All Board members present. John LeVangie, from the Norwich Public Schools, was welcomed as a new member of the Board.

**Public Comment**

Curt Ramsey spoke about the sibling policy from a family/individual perspective. He researched the sibling policies at six charter schools that are similar to IDCS, K-8 (New Beginnings, Highville, Jumoke Academy, Amistad Academy and ISSAC). All siblings move to the top, except some wait one year. Four of the six schools had lotteries for every grade, every year and parents must update their application yearly to be in the lottery. Mr. Ramsey will continue contacting other schools and will forward his findings to Sandy Quarto or Laura McMahan.

●A motion was made by Frank Maletz and seconded by Mary Osten to accept the December 15 Governing Board minutes, with one addition: Michele Devine was absent. It passed unanimously with June Morrone, Michele Devine and Laura McMahan abstaining.

**Director's Report**

Charter Renewal visit by SDE--Nine evaluation members were sent. Student tour guides did an excellent job and the team members reported they did not feel it necessary to spend much time in the classrooms. We have received informal assurances we will be chartered for six more years.

Laura McMahan, Michael Seroussi and Anna James were interviewed extensively. It was clear after the questioning that the work the Board is doing is very important to the success of the school. This was our third renewal and this was the most highly qualified team of professionals they have sent.

Charter School Report Card – The SDE is visiting all charter schools to make sure they are meeting accountability requirements.

The Board of the proposed Greenville Montessori Charter School held a public informational meeting at Otis Library.

John LeVangie asked if the Board packet is sent to the Media. Minutes of our meetings are on our web site.

**Business Report**

Building Committee – The Committee needs to review the architect's documents to provide feedback to the Board. Members of the committee are June Morrone, Anna James and Myron Huntley. An additional member needs to be appointed (Jason Jones stepped down). Funding for

this project has not been released yet. Brianne Temple volunteered to serve on the Building Committee.

## **Committee Reports**

The **Finance Committee** met January 5 (see minutes). An agreement has been reached with teachers on salary with a 2.75% gross wage increase. The Teachers Union has proposed three different schedules. (See Action Items).

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by June Morrone to add the agreement as an action item to tonight's agenda. It passed unanimously.

A survey to determine if there is a need for a breakfast program is being developed.

**Governance Committee** – see minutes

Correction: In the first sentence change “sent” to “drafted.” Jason Jones will send the letter to Sandy regarding the parent member who has applied for Board membership.

A Health Notification policy was discussed. The Siblings Admission Policy is still under consideration, pending further research.

**Planning Committee** – did not meet. The strategic plan needs development. Consultants at LEARN are still willing to facilitate a workshop but need potential dates. LEARN should be able to provide a facilitator for less than the \$2,500 allotted, which has been allocated for other expenses. Frank Maletz suggested the Committee meet before the next Board meeting to plan the workshop. A grant application could be submitted to the Eastern CT Community Foundation for this. The focus will be on instruction, professional development and facility issues. Michele Devine will investigate grants and facilitators.

The **Curriculum Committee** strongly recommends that we move toward a uniform curriculum format using the Understanding by Design format. Other recommendations were to work on a pacing guide and a curriculum map. The grade 3-4 map of the current topic (Africa) was reviewed, which has a good format. Sheri Cooke has been very helpful with this process. Teachers would need to come to a consensus on the format to use during curriculum revision. The Current curriculum follows state guidelines with suggestions added to fit the ID model.

**Finance Committee** – Paul Rak will chair the Committee. The audit was completed, with no issues. The 2010-2011 budget is on track with the exception of workmen's compensation and unemployment costs. It is unknown when the facilities grant will be approved by the Bonding Commission. The day care program is losing money and the Committee recommends closing the program at the end of this year until the new space is ready. The program now includes toddlers. In addition to the operating deficit (\$13,922) the space is needed to meet the instructional program needs of our students, which should be our first priority. Important considerations for a future day care program are:

- Hiring someone who is qualified to do teaching and management of the program.

- Making a significant effort to “advertise” openings and fill the program.

- Ensuring the program is self-supporting, as it cannot be funded from the regular budget

- A motion was made by Jason Jones and seconded by Frank Maletz to add closing the EECP program to the agenda's action items. It passed unanimously.

### **Chair's Report**

The Board was asked if they would prefer to bring their own packets (received via email prior to the meeting) or have them copied and ready on the table. It was decided the packets would be copied and any Board members planning to bring their own copy would notify Sandy.

### **Discussion and Action Items**

The Board received drafts of two policies: Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children and Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Mentally Retarded Adults. In the latter policy, the "Board of Education" should be changed to the "Governance Board" and the "Superintendent" should be changed to "Director."

Teacher Salary Schedule Proposals:

#1. 2.75% gross wage increase divided by the # of contracted teachers = everyone receives the same raise and stays on the same step.

#2 2.75% is added to every step; the more money you make the higher your raise is.

#3. Because someone on the 1<sup>st</sup> step has been on this step for three years, the percentage was changed for everyone else's increase in order to increase the first step more significantly.

The outcome of the teachers' vote is due on Friday.

The Board was asked if they have a preference for any of the three options. It was noted that when a teacher leaves the IDCS, the next employer looks at the number of years teaching, not steps. Because of the pay freeze this year, steps do not equal the number of years worked.

- A motion was made by Michael Seroussi and seconded by Jason Jones to accept one of the proposals, as determined by the teacher vote, and to authorize the Board chair to sign the accepted proposal. The vote was unanimous.

- A motion was made by Jason Jones and seconded by Michele Devine to close the EECP at the end of the school year, with the Director notifying staff and clientele. An amendment to the motion was made by Brianne Temple and seconded by Jen Spangle to move the vote until next month. The vote on the amended motion was 3 in favor, 7 opposed. The vote on the original motion was unanimous, with June Morrone abstaining.

It was decided it would be best to let parents know now that the program is closing at the end of the year so that they have more time to find alternative care. There are currently two full time children; all others are part time. This dilemma was discussed last year and the program was not

closed. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to be heard and to work toward making the program more financially viable. Since our space needs have become critical, we are providing a service at the expense of our instructional program. Our space needs are not going to change; this is a difficult but necessary decision.

### **Executive Session**

- A motion was made by Jason Jones and seconded by June Morrone to go into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. It passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Michael Serroussi and seconded by Jason Jones to come out of executive session at 7:27 p.m. It passed unanimously.

No action followed executive session.

- A motion was made by Mary Osten and seconded by Jason Jones to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 16, 5:30 p.m.