



THE WORLD IS OUR FAMILY

CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2011

Attendance:

	2010				2011							
	9/9	10/14	11/18	12/9	1/13	2/10	3/10	4/14	5/12	6/9	7/14	8/11
Nimish Bhatt												
Scott Elliott	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Dr. Charles Hutchison	X	X	X		X		X	X				
Sam Leder	X	X	X		X		X	X				
Karen Bailey	X											
Megan McNutt	X	X		X	X			X				
Maureen White	X	X		X	X		X	X				
Mystica Nelms	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Susan Schweitzer	X	X			X			X				
Kevin Weber	X		X	X	X			X				
Donna Harkey			X	X	X		X	X				
Abby Bottoms	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				
Tisha Greene								X				
Gloria Campbell-Whately												

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

Scott Elliott offered a welcome and stated his hope to return to the Harrisburg Town Hall for future meetings.

CIS Mission Statement

Kevin Weber

Student and Employee of the Month:

Mystica Nelves, Principal

Students from each grade were recognized.

Amy Fitchett, teacher of the month

Finance Report:

Christine Quinn, Acadia, NorthStar

Christine Quinn reviewed the recommended changes discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, reflected on pg. 2 of handout. Discussion of budget projections for next fiscal year including changes to benefit and retirement contributions.

Acceptance of budget changes: Sam Leder motioned for approval of recommended changes. Charles Hutchison seconded. Motion passed.

Secretaries Report

Maureen White, Secretary

Maureen White read March minutes and referenced the amended minutes for July and August 2010. Clarifications were made to the spelling of specific names.

Acceptance of minutes: Maureen White motioned for approval of March minutes as well as approval of the July and August minutes with noted clarifications. Sam Leder seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Academic Report:

Mystica Nelves, Principal

Mystica Nelves gave an overview of academic status including the following points and newly implemented programs:

- Earth Day
- Parents role in the Word of the Week initiative
- Responses from her survey (114 out of 331)
- DARE graduation with Deputy Thousand and Barn Bacharach including student essay competition winners
- Third quarter Extravaganza was a success.
- Scheduling committee discussing a move to block scheduling
- Intent forms were sent to teachers and all are returning except for one who will retire
- Intent forms for students are due Friday, April 22
- Moving forward with E-progress reports and sending paper reports home only for students with concerns
- Report cards were sent the week before
- Teacher appreciation will be May9-13
- Discussion of online text books for grades 3-10 and implications including financial, environmental and infrastructure
- Talent show was success
- Chinese teachers visited through International House
- Website transition is complete for in-house control

Donna Harkey had the following updates:

Donna Harkey, Assistant Principal

- Noted the art hanging on the walks from Ms. Aranyi's 2nd and 5th grade classes
- Mid-year evaluation plans due from teachers
- Any interested proctors to help with testing in May should be in touch with Denise Schwartz

Scott Elliott inquired about media for Earth Day celebration. Mystica Nelmes said they were contacted.

Charles Hutchison raised discussion of e-textbooks. Mystica Nelmes discussed her research into infrastructure, budget and impact. Scott Elliott mentioned a growing percentage of charters moving forward with this initiative.

Discussion of possible change to block scheduling.

PTSO:

Susan Schweitzer, PTSO Chair

The Board heard updates on the following initiatives:

- Successful Spirit Events
- Uniform swap and used book sale on Earth Day
- Junior Achievement and Biztown concluding before testing
- PTSO elections in June
- Teacher Appreciation Day coming up

Scott Elliott asked for a final total from the Silent Auction. PTSO reported that \$12,000.00 was the final total.

Staff Liaison:

Kevin Weber, Teacher Liaison

Kevin Weber made the following comments on behalf of the staff:

- Extravaganza was successful

New Business

- Scott Elliott made a motion to approve applications for new Board members Tisha Greene and Dr. Gloria Campbell-Whatley. Sam Leder seconded. Motion passed.
- Discussion of the composition and role of a committee to facilitate communication between BoD and parent body. Debbie Weisler has volunteered to be parent representative. Maureen White made a motion to establish an ad-hoc committee to meet a minimum of two times per year with at least one BoD member and at least one parent member present with the intention to bring questions to BoD for response. Sam Leder seconded. Motion passed.
- Discussion of posting final audit on website. Scott Elliott stated for the record that the status as reported in the audit was an accomplishment for all to be proud of – teachers, staff, administration and BoD. Sam Leder motioned to post the audit report on the website. Charles Hutchison seconded. Motion passed.
- Scott Elliott reported that the campus construction committee met the week prior and was well attended. The next meeting is May 3 and the first Tuesday of each month after that. The committee planned to bring recommendations to the BoD at the next opportunity.
- Discussion of language in charter law in regards to 'tuition and fees' and previous communications between parents, DPI and the BoD. Scott Elliott stated that, if requested, CIS will refund any fees applied to athletic

programs. Scott Elliott noted one provision in Senate Bill 8 is to allow a charter to charge fees in accordance with local LEA and that the fees collected by CIS for athletics were below the levels of other local schools. Mystica Nelmes also stated that CIS will provide documentation of the fee as a tax-deductible charitable donation if anyone wishes.

- Scott Elliott read a letter from a parent to DPI regarding issues of non-compliance. Scott Elliott stated that he expected to receive no further communication regarding non-compliance after the installation of 2 additional BoD members at the current meeting.
- Scott Elliott announced the finalization and pending distribution of parent/teacher survey noting that they design was consistent to the survey issued for school year 2009-2010. Maureen White noted that the surveys are completely confidential. Charles Hutchison requested only one survey per household be returned.

Open Comments:

- Fred Langley said 'thank you' for keeping his children educated and 'on the straight and narrow.'
- Shannon Leder presented the names of 6 families who had signed a petition for a 'Governance Cautionary Status' to be placed on CIS. She discussed the potential for danger to teachers' careers and hundreds of children's education. She urged the parent body to stop the 'bullies' by saying something.
- Kim Reese said that she loves her job and fully supports the administration. She stated that she saw CIS moving in the right direction regarding the mission and vision. She called for behavior in line with the Core Values of the school and said the drama needs to stop in order to refocus energy.
- Kevin Lipp spoke in support of BoD. He stated that the administration is not here to make us happy; they are here to help him as a teacher to get the tools to help the students. He urged unhappy individuals to ask themselves if they are helping the children or the school with their actions.
- Shelly Beauvais stated that she had not spoken up previously but decided to once she felt the situation at CIS was affecting her child. She said thank you to everyone who has been willing to do what is necessary to 'stop the madness'.
- Tamara Windham said that her heart goes out to those who had signed the petition because something had not been met for them. She also gave details of upcoming teacher appreciation.

8:25 Sam Leder voted to go into closed session. Maureen White seconded. Motion passed.

Closed Session: Contract matters: personnel. Open Session: **8:45 pm**

- Terri Clay Meadows was voted onto board pending background check. Sam Leder moved. Tisha Greene seconded. Motion passed.

Scott Elliott motioned to adjourn the meeting. Maureen White seconded. Motion passed. **Adjournment:** 8:55 pm.

As Board Chair, I certify that these minutes have been reviewed and approved as they appear above.

Signature

Date