



Endeavor Board Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2011

Call to Order

Lisa Springle

The regular meeting of the Endeavor Charter School Board of Directors was called to order at 7:01 pm by Lisa Springle in the ECS multi-purpose room.

Approval of Minutes

Christian Nechyba

Christian Nechyba moved for the approval of the minutes from the January regular board meeting. Larry Woolard seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Stakeholders Update

Lisa Springle

Lisa Springle gave an update from the stakeholders meeting. The end of year picnic would be on June 5 (at this time, there was no rain date due to a schedule conflict). The new family orientation would be on April 28 at 7 pm and would include a presentation on volunteerism.

Leadership Team Update

Steve McAdams

Steve McAdams provided a leadership team update from fifth grade (Tara Whitbread had been unable to attend this meeting). Fifth grade had presented civil war skits in social studies, and had completed a literature circle unit, a hands-on force/motion science unit, and conducted in school field trips on simple machines. The American Cancer Society Relay for Life was this year's service project, and the grade would be conducting its Sound to Sea field trip this month.

Seventh & Eighth Grade Math Program

Melissa Dougherty

Lisa Springle

The three tracks in the 7th/8th grade math program were reviewed, and included: (1) 7th grade: pre-algebra, 8th grade: algebra (2) 7th grade: algebra, 8th grade: geometry and (3) 7th & 8th grade: pre-algebra. High school math options for all three tracks were reviewed. Academic, EOG, and Iowa Algebra Aptitude test requirements for entering seventh grade algebra were reviewed.

Lisa Springle reviewed recommendations for geometry. Four 8th grades will take geometry next year. Ms. Boas is interested in continuing to teach geometry, which was offered from 8 am to 8:45 am this year. Geometry would be offered from 8:15 am to 8:45 am daily next year (less time was needed since geometry students would finish the full curriculum ahead of schedule this year). Only geometry students would be in Mrs. Boas' "0 Period" homeroom class. Virtual school geometry provided an alternative for students who did not choose this Period 0 option, and would run on a traditional calendar schedule. Once larger numbers of students show geometry readiness in eighth grade, the class could be accommodated during the 8:45-3:15

school day. The Board asked questions about the geometry proposal and elective options at the 7th/8th grade level.

Technology Update

**Melissa Bonsted
Steve Santana**

Melissa Bonsted and Steve Santana provided a technology update. They reviewed current technology contained within the school, as well as the goals for school technology in the first three years. The first year goal was to establish a safe computing environment with critical infrastructure at low cost. The second year goals were to improve existing technology, implement a wireless standard, expand to portables, implement smartboard/elmo/projector technology, provide a mobile computer lab, and establish e-mail archiving, with the support of a part-time technology coordinator and financial assistance from PAWS. The third year goals included a shift of technology coordinator focus to the classroom, creation of a second mobile computer lab, operationalizing existing hardware, new software tools, on and off-site backups, physical security, and asset management. Future projects include a move to Google docs and e-mail, an upgrade to Schoolwires, internal user ID's, grading software and a continued effort to move toward a more mature technology platform with a focus on ongoing professional development for staff and increased technology enrichment of students.

Foundation Update

Steve Santana

Steve Santana provided a brief Foundation update. The Foundation was discussing how to reframe the capital campaign once land is purchased. Several financing opportunities are also being considered, including bonds. Several land options were being explored, and there would be more discussion once the Foundation was ready to make an offer.

Finance Committee Report

**Larry Woolard
Margaret Holder**

Larry Woolard reported that the Regions Bank account balance was \$225,512. The Bank of America CD balance was \$202,643. The First Citizens account balance was \$773,462. The finance committee planned to move money from the operating account into a new account. Margaret Holder stated that a surplus of \$218,000 was expected for the year (a surplus of \$245,000 had been budgeted). The finance committee would like to have a preliminary budget before the next finance committee meeting.

Charter School Alliance Update (10 minutes)

**Margaret Holder
Helen Harris**

Margaret Holder and Helen Harris had attended a "Starting Your Own Charter School" training session on February 7. Joel Medley from DPI spoke on open meetings laws. Mission statements were discussed. Marcy Cornel Feist spoke about board composition and board turnover, advocating large board composition and non-parent, non-staff boards. Academics, finance, governance, development, and personnel were suggested as focus areas for committees. Tom Williams reviewed charter school finance. David Hofstettler reviewed charter school law. Insight Architects sponsored the meeting.

Parent & Faculty Surveys

**Christian Nechyba
Christine Northrup**

The faculty and parent feedback surveys for 2011 had been reviewed by staff and administration, and several changes from last year's surveys were made to reflect both new school composition (i.e., guidance counselor, teaching services coordinator, etc.) and incorporate feedback from staff. Board input on the wording and organization of several survey questions was discussed. The surveys would be entered over trackout in an online survey tool and distributed electronically to faculty and staff at the beginning of the fourth quarter. One parent survey per family would be distributed, but the survey would allow a family to give grade-level specific feedback if they had multiple students at Endeavor.

Fundraising Policy

Helen Harris

Helen Harris stated that a fundraising policy was being written and would be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Parent Teacher Communication Policy

Helen Harris
Lisa Springle
Andy Kristianson

Helen Harris presented the revised version of the parent teacher communication policy. Several minor revisions, including the communication of urgent medical and safety information, were incorporated. Helen Harris made a motion to approve the parent teacher communication policy with the proposed revisions. Margaret Holder seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The policy would be electronically communicated to parents in fourth quarter and included in the handbook for next year.

Priority Setting

Lisa Springle

Lisa Springle briefly reviewed the board priority setting. She listed technology, corporate partnerships, professional staff development, and educational partnerships as potential areas of focus, and proposed that the board start with two of these topics.

Public Comments

David Deaton spoke in opposition to the plan for geometry instruction for the coming school year. Susie Masten asked how academically gifted students are identified.

Closed Session

Andy Kristianson moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel topics, in accordance with statute 143.318.11 (a) (6). Christian Nechyba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the Board moved into closed session at 10:02 pm. The Board reconvened in public session at 11:09 pm.

Adjournment

Lisa Springle adjourned the meeting at 11:10 pm.