



## Endeavor Charter School Board of Directors

*Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2009*

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Endeavor Charter School Board of Directors was called to order at 7 pm on 9/21/2009 at Endeavor Charter School's multi-purpose room by Heather Reifschneider

### **Present:**

Heather Reifschneider, Steve McAdams, Christi Whiteside, Christian Nechyba, Larry Woolard, Margaret Holder, Joseph House

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Christian Nechyba asked for approval of minutes from the August Board meeting. He stated that three minor revisions in the August PAWS update had been made at the suggestion of Karin Reed which involved numerical errors in the original version of the minutes. These errors were corrected and the accuracy of the revised PAWS update had already been confirmed by Karin Reed. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

### **PAWS Update:**

Karin Reed provided an update from PAWS, which is summarized below:

#### PAWS Financials:

- Current Cash Balance: \$43,420.23 (Including last year's \$35K carry over)
- Membership Drive Complete:
  - 86 % participation
  - \$3210 collected for dues and lanyards
  - Made \$360 more than budgeted
- Lion's Share to launch this week with goal of \$100/child
- Teacher Supply Grants- reimbursing teachers for supply purchases up to \$100
- Teacher Mini Grants- Steve McAdams received more applications for \$350 grants than budgeted for, currently considering options for funding all

- Finance Committee starting analysis of applying field trip funds as well as the process for coordinating grade level fundraisers to defray costs of more expensive trips
- Grants- Committee submitting three grants each in September, October and November
  - Won't hear until January or February

PAWS Activities Underway:

- Hospitality Committee- Salad Bar Luncheon for teachers and staff for track out
- Directory due out this week
  - Roger Winstead, chair, has \$1075 in ad sales so far
- School Pictures completed: waiting for proofs
- Storyteller Donna Washington performed last Friday for all grades except 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (field trip & poetry performances)
- Café Days in process of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter orders with online system

Christi Whiteside stated that the teachers were very appreciative of the PAWS mini-grants and expressed gratitude to PAWS.

The board then discussed setting expectations for volunteerism for Endeavor families. Karin Reed stated that DJ Hill was drafting a letter to try to achieve this goal. A minimum of one hour per student per month per family was discussed, as was the fact that other charter schools had set higher expectations for time commitment. Margaret Holder suggested that this expectation be added to the student handbook also. Steve McAdams suggested a plaque recognizing top volunteers, but Karin Reed stated that some members of the PAWS board believed such a plaque might discriminate against families who contribute in other ways. Christi Whiteside suggested a running list of "thank you's" on the Endeavor website.

**Enrichment Update:**

Tamara Santana provided an update from the enrichment program. Net income from first quarter enrichment was \$4,132.50. For the second quarter, 18 new classes will be offered. Other schools have been approached about Endeavor's enrichment program, and advertisements have been placed in *Triangle Tracks* and *Carolina Parent* to promote enrollment from students outside as well as from within the Endeavor community. Camp Endeavor will be held from 10/5 to 10/9.

**Finance Committee:**

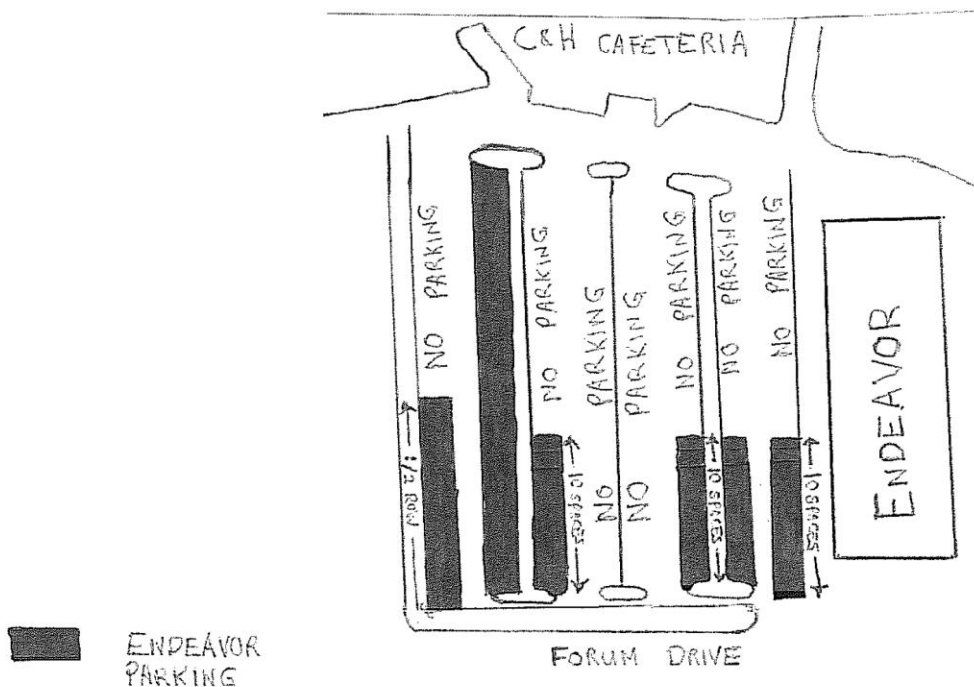
Larry Woolard reviewed Endeavor's bank balance: \$235,385.83 in the First Citizen's account and \$201,252.28 in the Bank of America account. \$25,000 has been lent to the Endeavor Foundation, to be repaid at the end of the academic year. He stated the need to monitor the utility bills from the modular units, and emphasized generally the need to maintain financial vigilance.

**Audit:**

Margaret Holder reviewed the progress of the Endeavor audit. DJ Hill had received good feedback from the auditors that Endeavor was in great shape for a first year school. A final audit report was expected in October. Steve McAdams stated that the auditors felt good about other schools who had worked with Acadia. Christi Whiteside added that Eileen Underkoffler deserved the board's gratitude for hard work organizing for the audit.

### Parking Update

Christian Nechyba provided an update on the parking arrangement with C & H Cafeteria. C & H will permit Endeavor's use of 40 additional parking spaces towards the right side of the Endeavor building (see diagram below). These spaces are closer to the building than the two rows distant from the building to which Endeavor has been entitled under its lease. In return, Endeavor will allow C & H parking in the left hand side of the parking row most distant from Endeavor. This parking arrangement represents a significant improvement over our previous parking arrangement, and has been approved by Weingarten as long as it remains mutually acceptable to both C & H Cafeteria and Endeavor. Christian Nechyba also suggested that the Endeavor community should show its appreciation towards C & H by patronage of their cafeteria (through cafe days, spirit nights, etc.)



### Background Checks:

Steve McAdams raised the question of whether Endeavor should consider supporting financially the cost of background checks for Endeavor volunteers. A majority of board members agreed that this would be a positive step in supporting an expectation of volunteerism from the Endeavor community. Christian Nechyba made a motion that Endeavor cover the costs of two background checks per family per year for all Endeavor students starting in the 2010-11 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Insurance:**

Steve McAdams reviewed requests from Endeavor's insurance agent. These included posting "No Weapons" signs and signs asking all visitors to report to the front office. An occupational safety policy will also be established at the insurance company's request.

**Curriculum Update:**

Maija McAdams provided a curriculum update of the math/science curriculum. She reviewed a cognitively guided math instruction program for the faculty, which was provided by Julie Hughes, who also trains WCPS teachers. This approach de-emphasizes algorithmic thinking and focuses on logical and intuitive thinking. Specific CGI-based problem-solving examples were reviewed. Maija McAdams also provided a review and examples of science notebooks at various grade levels, demonstrating the building of a common vocabulary and the building of scientific thinking and problem solving from the elementary to the middle school grades.

Christi Whiteside provided an update on the language/social studies curriculum. She reviewed the daily grammar practice program and the wordly wise program in grades 3-8. In grades 4-8, Mr. Carter had organized a world leaders card project. Each grade focused on a different region.

**Public Comments for Board Consideration:**

Tamara Santana asked about cursive handwriting in the curriculum. Christi Whiteside stated that this was a part of the third grade curriculum, and that there wasn't much room in the curriculum to provide "catch up" teaching to students who had missed this in earlier grades at other schools. Tamara Santana also asked about typing/keyboarding, and Christi Whiteside stated that additional instruction on this topic was difficult given the popularity of the computer lab. It was suggested that keyboarding would provide an excellent opportunity for an enrichment class.

**Closing:**

Heather Reifschneider adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

