



Endeavor Charter School Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2009

Call to Order:

DJ Hill

The regular meeting of the Endeavor Charter School board of directors was called to order on November 16, 2009 in the Endeavor multi-purpose room by DJ Hill at 7:05 pm.

Present:

DJ Hill, Heather Reifschneider, Larry Woolard, Christian Nechyba, Margaret Holder, Andy Kristianson, Joseph House, Christi Whiteside

Christi Whiteside stated that Steve McAdams was sick and would be unable to attend this meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Christian Nechyba

The minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved.

PAWS Update

Karin Reed

Karin Reed provided an update from PAWS. \$26,000 was raised in the Lion's Share fundraiser (which was above the goal of \$20,000). The range of donations was from \$2 to \$1000. Book Fair was scheduled for the week of November 30. Fall pictures have been completed. Hurricanes ticket sales were in progress, and partial proceeds would go to PAWS. The Magic of African Rhythm cultural arts program was held today, and was well received. A new recognition section has been added to the PAWS newsletter. Protective covers have been placed over the modular AC units by PAWS for safety reasons.

Finance Committee Report

Larry Woolard

Larry Woolard provided a treasurer's report. There was currently \$193,347 in the school's First Citizens bank account and \$201,753.74 in the school's Bank of America CD. The year's

budget is on target and still includes a \$119,000 future building outlay. The school should meet its budget goals this year. DJ Hill stated that the school's financial success was directly related to grants - if we have adequate grants, we have a surplus. On a separate topic, he stated that the board would try to publish its board agenda the Friday before the next scheduled board meeting.

Officer Nominations

Andy Kristianson

Andy Kristianson reported that in March 2009, the corporate governance committee, with approval of the board, had set up procedures for selecting officer positions. Officers would be elected at the end of the calendar year, and all current officers had indicated willingness to run for the same office for the coming year (chair, treasurer, secretary).

School Day Schedule

DJ Hill

DJ Hill introduced this discussion stating that "away" games have been a challenge for the athletics program because of the relatively short interval between school release and the beginning of some away athletics events. Early releases for athletes from school were felt to represent a bad precedent by the school administration. Other ideas to resolve this issue have been considered. One of the other ideas proposed was to move the school day forward 15 minutes (start and release 15 minutes earlier). There were challenges in terms of other effects which that type of change would have on the school. Lori Tolson, providing the perspective of the athletics program, stated that the sports program had taken off well, but that Endeavor was a relatively late releasing school. Many sporting events start at 4 pm. This presented challenges to getting there, having enough time to warm-up, providing walk-through time of cross-country tracks, etc. Margaret Holder asked why we would change 400 students' schedules for a few events. Christi Whiteside stated that releasing only athletes early from school would set a bad precedent, and also affects before school enrichment.

Heather Scott stated that music/band enrichment programs had moved before school so that students would have the ability to participate in athletics after school. She stated that 58 students participated in morning music/band enrichment, and 25 students participated after school. She anticipated that number would continue to grow in the next few years. She stated that younger students might not attend morning music programs that started even earlier. DJ Hill asked how other schools handled music/band programs. Heather Scott responded that other schools would provide such programs during the school day, but that Endeavor didn't have the facilities to run band programs during the school day. She stated that parents might opt out of band if it were moved earlier, and that after school band would conflict with athletics. She also added that morning ensembles are co-curricular (i.e., based on the NC course of study) and also provided students with many other skills. Karen Lynn stated that the athletics program did have some flexibility, and that this is not a huge problem; she also stated that there were almost no problems with the winter basketball schedule. In the spring athletics season, there were three potential scheduling issues (one event in Durham at 4 pm, two events in Cary at 4 pm). DJ Hill stated that athletes were permitted first release (separate from carpool) out the back entrance of the school to accommodate these events.

Tamara Santana provided an enrichment perspective on the athletics question. She stated that moving the school day earlier was not good for after school enrichment either (after school enrichment currently enrolls 145 students). Heather Scott requested that any survey regarding moving the school day be a fair presentation and review all impacts of such a decision. Christian Nechyba stated that about two thirds of faculty who expressed a preference did not support moving the school day to an earlier start time.

Heather Reifschneider moved for a board vote to make the 10 minute [early athlete] release a board decision. DJ Hill stated that he was uncomfortable making this decision without the director in the room. He stated that Steve McAdams had agreed to allow such early athlete releases for tournament play, but not for the regular season. The motion was not voted on. Heather Reifschneider then proposed a motion that the board should have a final vote on matters of arts, sports, and other situations like this. Christi Whiteside stated that she believed this would set a very bad precedent. Andy Kristianson stated that he saw this motion as too vague and that there would be a problem defining "situation like this." He expressed a willingness to work with the board to further delineate board responsibilities regarding administrative decisions, and would be willing to write something that succinctly addresses this issue. Heather Reifschneider agreed to this idea in principle. The proposed motion was not voted on. Margaret Holder added that the school is still new, and that the board still needed to define its responsibilities more clearly. DJ Hill referred the question back to the corporate governance committee for further recommendations.

Foundation Report & Discussion

Steve Santana

Steve Santana provided a report from the Endeavor Foundation. He stated that no one on the foundation had previously run a campaign of this size, and that a methodology needed to be put in place, as well as an assessment on the likelihood of the foundation being able to raise such funds. A capital development firm had been hired to help develop a fundraising plan. The goal was for a new facility to be complete by the summer of 2013. A 15-20% down payment would be needed to buy land, which would then lead to construction of a facility, and a move in 12 months later. Each committee of the Endeavor Foundation then provided an update on their progress.

Land/Development Committee: Asa Rogerson stated that for a K-8 school, a minimum of 12 useable acres of land would be required. Input on class sizes and number of students per grade would be necessary. About 22 acres would be a minimum for a K-12 school. In order to retain the largest number of current students possible, the committee would like the property to be located within 10 minutes of the current school location. The committee is identifying parcels of land within these criteria. The committee is also approaching people who aren't thinking about selling land. They have already taken a hard look at several properties. One piece of land has already been purchased by the Wake County school system. The committee would also like to know if the board would be willing to partner with a religious organization to share facilities for parking, and other auxiliary facilities. This could be the best use of the school's resources. The school would only share auxiliary facilities under such a plan, not classroom space. There could be problems with religious imagery in auxiliary facilities. Steve Santana emphasized that diligence

was critical and guidelines were needed from the board if such an approach was to be considered. Pleasant Union is an example of a school which currently rents for church use on weekends. DJ Hill gave other examples in which control of a common building space was shared by different entities. Asa Rogerson stated that there had been preliminary discussion with one church in Raleigh which has an excellent piece of land. Steve Santana stated that the board needs to consider this issue carefully and perform its due diligence. Margaret Holder asked how many properties the foundation was looking at. Asa Rogerson stated that the approximate break line was I-540 and Strickland Road. If the property were more rural, we would need to invest more for water/sewer.

Steve Santana stated that there were a broad range of construction price options. Margaret Holder asked about credits from the government for sustainable and environmentally friendly construction. Asa Rogerson stated that the Foundation was doing research on this. Christian Nechyba asked if decisions were needed on the size of the final K-8 school. Christi Whiteside stated that the administration was not quite ready with these numbers. DJ Hill asked about the eventual number of classes per grade and number of students per grade in a final facility. Heather Reifschneider stated that the initial goal was for 4 classes per grade. Christi Whiteside stated that this was not a commitment in the charter. She also stated that 4 classes of 16 each would be ideal, but that the issue was more difficult in middle school, as there were 5 core subjects per class. Asa Rogerson asked if 16 vs. 18 students per class would make a big difference for the school, as this would affect the school's facilities budget significantly.

Asa Rogerson continued by presenting for John Collar, who could not attend the board meeting tonight, for the finance committee. The foundation had met with 7 lenders. Most likely, 15-20% cash would be needed to finance the remaining 80-85%. One lender was very willing to work with the Foundation. He stated that the school needed to pick a true partner as a lender. The Foundation was also looking at how long are we going to own land before construction, as there were carrying costs associated with buying land earlier. He stated that the more parameters were locked down, the better this would be for the foundation.

DJ Hill summarized that the data needed by the foundation would be the number of classes per grade, the number of students per class, the board's comfort with various degrees of leveraging, our desired budgetary reserve amount, and the idea of partnership with a church. He stated that we should utilize DPI and other schools as resources. Steve Santana stated that operations cost for facilities would also need to be defined; the target was 18% per student cost currently. Asa Rogerson stated that this could range from 15-20%. If the board could firm up the size of the final school, this would be helpful, he stated.

Lisa Springle reviewed the design committee's work. The committee had been talking to experts, and a construction company came out to give a presentation, including how sustainable building might fit in. The committee has also met with architects. The committee was looking at both a first cost and a life cycle cost perspective. She stated that trying to come up with sustainable elements was important. The committee was also looking at ways to tie the building into the community, and was also planning to get input from the Endeavor community about design. She

stated that they were also considering a stakeholder meeting for about half a day with a facilitator. Steve Santana stated that this would help center the conversation. DJ Hill asked who would decide what would go into building. Lisa Springle stated that the design committee would have recommendations backed up by data. DJ Hill stated that it was probably best to have the foundation drive the process.

Todd Harris presented for the fundraising committee. He stated that they had interviewed three fundraising firms. A capital fundraising assessment would be presented to the foundation next Tuesday. An executive overview would be presented to the board on December 14. The "quiet phase" of the fundraising campaign would raise about 1/2 of the school's total needs, and this would likely require 8-18 months. The public phase would occur for the next 6 months. The capital firm believes that \$2 million was an attainable goal in 4 years. There was hope for about 10% as a "lead gift" - about \$200,000. Steve Santana stated that there would be a plan for about 5-7 sessions with parents about why this campaign will be important for the school. He stated that there would likely not be much success getting investment from outside entities. It could be a year before the public phase of the capital campaign would begin. The campaign would be 90% planning and 10% asking.

Larry Woolard asked when parental educational meetings could start. He stated that the parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade would want to know what they can do, and would have difficulty continuing to wait. Steve Santana stated that he would be cautious about gift giving with strings attached. Margaret Holder stated that she believed that board hadn't discussed a faster track for high school enough at this time. DJ Hill stated that the current trajectory was to build a K-8 school first. He stated that discussion would continue in December, as would recommendations from Capital Development. He stated that the level of complexity is much harder with contingent fundraising for high school.

Steve Santana stated that there would be an executive overview from the Capital Development firm at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

DJ Hill

DJ Hill adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Christian Nechyba.