

Board Members Meeting
Boston Avenue Charter School
March 3, 2010

Board Members Present

Rowena Rampersad

Norma Callahan

Guests

Frank Jones, Principal

Douglas Jackson, Director of Schools

Bess Sharkey, FOBA President

Note Taker

Vivian Swartz, Admin. Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Norma Callahan. Norma Callahan made the motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Rowena Rampersad seconded.

Principal's Update

Frank Jones gave the update on enrollment there are 196 students for K-5. June 8th is the last day of school.

Douglas Jackson let the board know that Boston Avenue would be conducting a summer program at a nominal cost to parents that are interested. The cost of the program would be covered by the fee charged. This is a benefit to our students and parents.

Frank Jones informed that FCAT first part went well and there was a kick-off party skate night. It was very positive. FCAT will continue next week. With the new curriculum in place students have been preparing for FCAT, so when the students get to 3rd grade they will know how to take the test. Boston Avenue will have a school grade this year.

Facilities

The classroom inside the cafeteria was approved and has become a computer lab. At this moment it is being used for ESE services. Last summer we were very busy cleaning. This coming Saturday the Boston Avenue Parent Organization will have a cleanup day and it is expected to be a success.

Transportation

Frank Jones explained that transportation is a monster in compliance, but everything is going well. Linda Sheldrake is training bus drivers and has developed a good rapport with the County.

Update on the Review – The District annual review was discussed. Mr. Jones notified the board that all areas have been successfully addressed with the school district. We have started a good relationship with County and have proven that we are committed to education.

Mission Statement

Douglas Jackson stated that getting the teachers involved in the process of selecting the Mission Statement was very good because they had the chance to participate in such an important process. The teachers suggested the modification of “a small school environment” (setting under 500 students). Dr. Callahan made the motion to accept the amendment and Ms. Rampersad seconded. A special thanks to Ms. Rampersad for developing the draft mission statement.

Douglas Jackson informed that Frank Jones has been offered another job opportunity so he will be stepping down from the principal’s position. At the next board meeting it will be recommended that he be added to the board. Also, he informed that all documents will be sent ahead of time to have fewer, but more productive, meetings.

Douglas Jackson also recommended that the next meeting be on May 5th. Communications are open and board members can discuss issues one on one with staff in the event there is a question or concern regarding any agenda item.

Teacher out of field

Douglas Jackson informed that a non-certified teacher or substitute teacher for art can teach while we search for candidates but must be approved by the board if beyond 30 days and a letter sent home stating that the teacher is not “highly qualified”. This has been done with Ms. Eagon in Horticulture/PE and Ms. White in Art/PE. Ms. Rampersad motioned to approve. Dr. Callahan seconded. Motion carried.

Wellness policy

The wellness policy was presented by Vivian Swartz, with some modifications required by NSLP. The board members signed and approved the wellness policy.

Grants

We are currently working in two grants the Garden Grant and Kitchen Equipment Grant.

Other Business

Every other week parents involved in school will help with the communication of all events like Christmas program. We will ask for volunteers to help with the news letter.

There will be a classroom mother coordinating volunteer work in the classrooms. List all the parents.

Also, like the observation day, the classroom mother will help coordinate it. The news letter will be sent to the board members to keep them informed of all events.

The Phone system is always helpful for all communications.

Ms. Rampersad asked if there was an individual in the school responsible for keeping track of all activities and keeping track of volunteer hours. Every volunteer should be offered 2 or 3 options when volunteering as there are a myriad of activities that may be performed by volunteers. When the school becomes aware that a family is in financial distress, and the school has the need and ability to pay for volunteer work, the school will at times pay such volunteers.

Karen Richter is in charge of volunteers. There should be a lottery call if they are selected to help, a volunteer should submit a letter committing themselves to volunteer for 15 hours a year.

Ms. Rampersad expressed that parents feel connected when school staff calls their child by name. It is important to know all the parents and students. The school should have an Honor Roll breakfast or a Hot Dog party. If Parents are invited to come to the school, it makes them feel recognized. Last year we did ceremonies. Parents will come to school if their child is performing or doing something. At the end of the year all classrooms should have some sort of schedule at a different time of the day.

Frank Jones said that Ms. Richter is working on character qualities, with a different assignment each week. Examples of character qualities include virtue, friendship, and sharing. Champs' training is helping staff development and we are working with the district. Students will learn proper classroom behavior.

Ms. Rampersad mentioned Virtues Program. Every page is a different virtue in kids' language. It is kid friendly. Examples of the programs include the virtue of friendship, and sharing 24/7. She also recommended including the character of the week on the news letter, also may be posted by the fence at parent pick up. Develop something on the waiting line, a bulletin board.

The virtues project -Rowena Rampersad offered to do research on this.

Douglas Jackson recommended a Rummage Sale board to publish all activities or share the virtue of the week, as all people will see it and will want to be a part of it as well.

Diabetes Screening

Dr. Callahan will prepare the consent form for the diabetes screening. The sooner we find a child that has diabetes the better the treatment. Dr. Callahan informed that the Lions Club has already screened 7 schools in central Florida. The more incidents of this pervasive disease we can prevent the better. She stated a doctor referral would be made for each child that is found to have indicators for diabetes. Set up a date for the screening, pediatricians are not screening for diabetes at this time. However, Dr. Callahan state that there is something wrong when there is a reading below 90.

Ms. Rampersad asked if Boston Avenue is eligible for the “No Child Left Behind” tutoring services. Mr. Jones will ask Karen Richter as we are a Title 1 school.

Ms. Rampersad made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00AM and Dr. Callahan seconded.