

Boston Avenue Charter School

Board Meeting

May 5, 2010

Board members present

Rowena Rampersad

Norma Callahan

Matt Anderson

Guests

Douglas Jackson, Director of Schools

Frank Jones, Principal

Carol Bush, Finance Director

Mequel Franz, Parent

Tracie Dickerhoff, Parent

Note Taker

Vivian Swartz

The meeting was called to order by Matt Anderson at 8:36 AM. The board members proceeded to review the previous board meeting. The board requested to make two amendments to the minutes.

1. To include the mission statement. “To provide an educationally innovative program, in a small school environment, in which every student can succeed. In support of our mission, we are committed to growing a ‘green school’, promoting project-based learning, sustaining strong values, and cultivating community partnership.”
2. Modify Arizona Virtues Awareness to The Virtues Project.
Norma Callahan made the motion to amend and approve the minutes. Matt Anderson seconded, all in favor.

Revised Budget and Financial Report

The budget was presented by Carol Bush, Finance Director based on current expenditures. Norma Callahan requested some explanation regarding FEFP. Douglas Jackson explained that the initials stand for Florida Educational Finance Program. It is a very complex formula that is utilized by the State. Cost factors are built in to every district; some districts get 100%, others get 92%, and Palm Beach gets the highest. Volusia County receives one of the lowest. It all depends on the cost of education and cost of living. It is also based on a calculation of revenue that the state receives, i.e., federal, state, local dollars, taxes, property appraisals. It is very complex. It is recalculated quarterly with minor adjustments, and at the end of the year there are major adjustments. In 20 years the FEFP never decreased until three years ago; now they can go retroactive taking money back in June or July if they overpaid. We had a little issue in the beginning of this school year. Generally, on October schools give a projection for the next school year. Then, in July they are supposed to pay schools an amount based upon that calculation; if there is a significant difference modifications are made in the following two months. If there are not any significant differences they make the adjustment during FTE count in October and February. All dollars are based on the count of those two months. However, last year Volusia arbitrarily picked a number that they wanted us to have, contrary to the projection we sent them, and contrary to statutory law, the school was funded around \$300,000 less than what was needed for operation. They funded the school for a little over half the student population that the school had at the moment. It was very stressful but we survived, we never missed a paycheck. DOE stands behind us so this will not happen next year.

Frank Jones asked if those funds also come from lottery money. Douglas Jackson's answer was yes. And Florida is the 48th poorest funded state.

The Fund Balance Reserve is 3%. The state may take money back. The budget will never change unless the board approves the changes.

Charter Schools are free in financial expenditures. Other schools have to spend the money as they say it was supposed to be expended.

ESE Exceptional Student Education - we receive special funding for this area.

Fund Reserve set aside is 3%

Restricted Funds: This includes Capital Outlay, kitchen grant, start-up grant, etc.

Diabetes screening: is an example of a gift- item given to us. All donations will be recorded in the future.

Preschool is not part of the school. They are paying Boston for gas, rent, electricity, building costs, etc. Preschool is very valuable for the school; VPK is at maximum capacity. We have 36 students that are moving to Kindergarten. Our Preschool provides top quality education so our kindergarteners will be very well prepared. Ms. Gray, Ms. Trevino and Ms. McConnell have done a phenomenal job.

Norma Callahan made the motion to approve the budget and Rowena Rampersad seconded, all in favor.

Food Services

Vivian Swartz presented the amended wellness policy to the board for approval. All board members approved the amendment and signed the approval.

Food service is doing real well. Douglas Jackson expressed that last year the school lost about \$30,000. This year we are in the black and much healthier.

Vivian Swartz gave the update on the kitchen grant; both schools, in total, received 6,125.00 to buy new software for food service.

Update on the Audit

The auditor will be here the second week of June, the fiscal year ends June 30. The audit is not just finances, it is also policies and procedures, to ensure that the charter school is meeting all the specifications of the contract.

Principal's Position

The board has recommended Erin Quinn to fill the principal's position. Rowena Rampersad made the motion to accept Ms. Quinn, Norma Callahan seconded, all in favor. The board also recommended that, in the future, the resume be provided regarding the person to be interviewed so as to make the decision easier instead of having to ask so many questions.

New Board Member

Douglas Jackson recommended Frank Jones be part of the governing board, as he knows the day-to-day activities in the school will be very helpful to have him as a board member. Norma Callahan made the motion to accept Frank Jones as part of the governing board, effective the day following his last day as a Principal, Rowena Rampersad seconded, all in favor.

Board members asked when Ms. Quinn will start training. Mr. Jackson added that she already started meeting with teachers. Teachers have ownership. Ms. Williams will help with the school newspaper by students and staff. Ms. Waldrop will be the lead teacher for the primary grades. Ms. Gaw will be the lead teacher for the intermediate grades. Ms. Wood has volunteered to be a PS teacher.

All existing teachers will be rehired, but not to teach in the same grade. Ms. Groot is ESE and Gifted teacher. The school will free half of her day to coordinate testing, curriculum, teachers, etc., for the next year.

The tentative calendar will be postponed and will be sent to the board for their information on when and where all activities are taking place.

Facilities

Mr. Cozad presented the update regarding the expansion of the school to add 4 portables or cottages. The district does not have to worry about set back or anything else. We asked the city of Deland if we could put the portables in the same place where the District had them and they said that it will take a lot of time and money. The other option is to place them in the south side of the property, and the other option will be to request a variance. The alternative is to utilize the basketball court. The only problem will be that the school will lose the court, but the positive side is that this can be accomplished before the start of the next school year. The idea is to have little cottages with personality; they each will have a bathroom.

The other option will be to check on the breezeway were the horticulture class is to get a bid to build 2 to 3 classrooms and the garden area will include an ornamental garden and reading area and most of the classroom will be facing that area.

Next meeting schedule for Wednesday July 14, all activities will be posted on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM