

T.R. Paul Academy of Arts and Knowledge
aka Northern Colorado Academy of Arts and Knowledge
December 10, 2008 5:30pm
Room 226, 4512 McMurry, Fort Collins, CO 80525
Board Meeting Minutes

OPENING SECTION (20 minutes)

1. Call to Order Board President

Time Started: 5:32

2. Roll Call Board President

Board Members present in attendance: (X) Eastman (X) Cyr (X) Fries

3. Pledge of Allegiance Board President

4. Approval of Agenda

Recommended Motion: Move to adopt agenda as presented (or amended)

Motion made by: Fries Seconded: Cyr

Roll Call: Unanimously approved

5. Audience Comments Board President

Comments from two audience members regarding

SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (60 minutes)

1. Board Discussion

a) Next strategic planning meeting on January 10, 2009, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

b) National Charter Conference

June 21 to 24 in Washington, DC. Laura Szech will attend, and one Board member is recommended to attend.

Matt Fries may be a good candidate to attend this conference, provided his term with the Board is extended beyond May 2009.

c) Colorado Charter Conference

11th Annual Colorado Charter Schools Board Retreat May 8-9, 2009 in Breckenridge.

Recommended that all Board members attend this retreat. Further information about this retreat is still to be announced, but Board members should plan to attend.

d) Website Committee / Plans

Michael, Dawn, Barry, Terry, and Laura met with Justin Tran to view his proposed Web site redesign. Dawn will be heading a committee with Laura and

Terry to complete design requirements. Barry will get Mosaica's technical rep to connect with Justin to provide a working/review copy of the Web site for reviewers.

The new site will be paid for with grant money, and the cost will cover 1 year of revisions and maintenance.

e) Review Bylaw changes for discussion & final approval at January Board meeting.

Copies of the full, revised bylaws are distributed and will be presented for discussion, completion of revisions, and final approval at **January 14** meeting.

f) Discuss School Directory

At the November Board meeting, the Board heard a proposal to cease publication of any public, published school directory. The reason for the proposal is that such lists have been used by other institutions to gain contact information for school families for malicious or marketing purposes (e.g., to spread negative email campaigns, political campaigns, advertising purposes) and also to recruit families away from schools.

The PTLO has in previous years published this directory to make it easy for volunteer coordinators to contact families for volunteering, to allow families to communicate with each other, and to announce events.

The problem is that such a list is an open record document—by law, a published directory is public information. The directory is opt-in, but it does include student names and personal info such as addresses.

One proposed alternative to publishing a directory is to designate class coordinators as officials of the school. Then, they could have lists but be required to keep them private. (They would be bound by federal privacy laws.)

g) Determine two possible new Board member training dates

Discussion of this item moved to #4

h) Regular monthly Board meeting times going forward

Discussion of this item under #4

i) Valentine's Day teacher dinner

Barry talked to Shanda S., who will check into getting the PTLO to help coordinate this function. Plan is that each Board member/helper will bring potluck-style dinner items. We'd like to find entertainment and make it a nice evening. Barry Eastman will lead a committee to get this coordinated.

2. Mosaica Report

a) Terry Gogerty – Executive Vice President

Detailed financial info distributed. Deficit remains at about \$253K. Terry traveling December 17 to Pittsburg, PA to meet with the Paul family, whose reaction so far to our request to defer payments has been positive and cooperative. Terry will let us know the outcome.

Matt Fries and Terry Gogerty met with Guarantee Bank to discuss application for line of credit, which is in process. Matt Fries is also working to set up other meetings to investigate other funding options.

Academic support issues: Mosaica representatives toured last week during a training trip and were particularly interested in the application of the arts here.

NWEA testing scheduled to occur before holiday break. This round of testing will be the first assessment since the beginning of the year and should be a good measure of our progress.

Marketing and advertising—2 major points

- Considering transportation program
- Considering contracting for recruitment, which would be planned to be an opportunity for parents to do grass-roots recruiting. Outside contractors could also be eligible.

Bussing could be a very powerful tool for getting new students if marketed. Terry Gogerty provided information about costs and revenue to consider.

An option would be to assess a small fee for monthly bus service.

Will discuss transportation and marketing more completely at January planning meeting.

Matt Fries suggested Web advertising as an alternative to direct mail. Will discuss with Terry Gogerty in further detail.

b) Laura Szech – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Last month, Laura Szech gave a report to the CSI Board, who were very receptive. Laura presented our NWEA scores, art and robotics awards, and our participation in Odyssey of the Mind.

College posters have been posted around the building as “subliminal” teaching to get the kids talking about college. The kids immediately started talking when the posters went up, and the middle school students are doing a project about college planning.

Professional development scheduled December 11 and 18, starting with math, schoolwide vocabulary, use of Study Island to reinforce math, and data-driven instruction,

Annette Riesel is working on identifying CSAP trends of returning students.

RTI: Response to Interventions

RTI is a new, federally mandated program that employs early intervention with kids who fall behind or are at risk. The program is designed to prevent labeling kids with learning or behavioral disabilities.

Audience members discussed the program’s potential pluses and minuses. One audience member related a concern about the cost of implementing this

program. It is federally mandated to be in place by August 2009. Federal grants are available for covering the costs. (It is an unfunded mandate.)

Parent surveys coming back soon.

No PTLO meeting to report about this month.

97% of parents attended parent-teacher conferences in October.

We are still struggling to get participation in the enrichment classes. Administrators hope that our improved Web site may allow us to promote the classes to people outside the school and increase participation.

Roof repairs had been completed, but recent weather revealed more leaks. The contractor will return to continue repairs over Christmas break and will keep returning to repair further problems. This need to repeat repairs is not uncommon because problems are difficult to detect with flat roofs. The return visits are covered in our initial repair cost.

3. Consent Agenda

The Board will act upon all items as a package unless a member wishes to remove and separately act upon an individual item.

- a. Approval of minutes for November 12, 2008
- b. Acceptance of October Financial Reports

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion made by: Cyr Seconded: Fries

Roll Call: Motion denied in order to revise motion.

Motion: To approve minutes only.

Motion made by: Cyr Seconded: Eastman

Roll Call: Approved (2 aye, with Fries abstaining)

Motion: Approval of October financial reports as presented.

Motion made by: Fries Seconded: Cyr

Roll Call: Approved unanimously

4. Board Action

Recommended Motion: Move to accept the November 21 election results as final based on the following:

1. The election was not valid because of a lack of votes per the Election Policy.
2. Merinda Bennett withdrew her candidacy in the election after the votes were counted.
3. Per section 7.3 of the Board Bylaws, Michael Hughes and Julia Bauer are deemed elected to the Board as Seats A and B respectively.

Motion made by: Fries Seconded: Cyr

Discussion: The Board extends special thanks to Merinda Bennett for her participation and support of the Board and TPAAK and encourages her continued attendance and participation in Board activities.

Roll Call: Unanimously approved.

Note that New Board members participated in discussion and further motions at this meeting.

Discussion: New Board members requested change in time of regular Board meetings to accommodate all members' schedules.

Matt Fries recommended that with this change, we make an effort to accommodate audience members who would like to comment but can't arrive at the start of the meeting.

Motion: Move that starting January 14, Board meeting times change to 4:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Motion made by: Fries Seconded: Cyr

Roll call: Unanimously approved.

NOTE: We will draft a notice about the meeting time change that will incorporate a statement about our willingness to accommodate late arrivals who wish to comment about a particular issue.

Barry Eastman will coordinate training dates for new Board members.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION (30 minutes)

1. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- a) Student Achievement Metrics Discussion
- b) Follow up on planning meeting action items
 - a. Teacher-contact list for Board – Laura
 - b. (COMPLETE) CDE monies budget – Terry
 - c. (COMPLETE) Goals to Board email - Barry

2. SCHOOL EXCELLENCE

- a) School Excellence Goals Discussion
 - 1. Retaining and Recruiting Committee
- b) Follow up on planning meeting action items
 - 1. Mosaica – redo contract with loans - Barry
 - 2. Advantage LOC at \$200k – Matt w/ Terry

3. Fundraising Committee start in December – Laura
4. (COMPLETE) As needed Communication Committee – Dawn
5. Add surveys to the Web site as we redo tpaak.org.
6. (COMPLETE) 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 student addresses mapped – Laura, Terry
7. (COMPLETE) Roger Gray – exact interest on the bonds for 2008-2009 – Barry
8. (COMPLETE) Samantha email – exact amount of interest deferral request – Barry
9. (COMPLETE) Thrivent email – Laura

CLOSING SECTION (10 minutes)

1. Executive Session—N/A

2. Future Business

- a) Next Board meeting
- b) Safety Review - February
- c) Plus / Minus / Delta - Board Meeting Review

3. Adjournment

Adjournment motion made by: Fries Seconded by: Cyr
Roll Call: Unanimously approved

-----REFERENCES-----

Vision/Mission/Slogan

Vision

To create a regional school where high academic expectations coupled with an emphasis on the arts provides a well-rounded education that fosters respect for self and others while enhancing each individual's contribution to society.

Mission

The mission of the Northern Colorado Academy of Arts and Knowledge (NCAAK) is to craft and implement an imaginative and rigorous learning environment for teaching and learning. This program will link academics to the arts and link an arts education to community cultural resources. Ultimately, our goal is to teach students the joy of learning and the importance of expressing individual talent artistically and academically.

Slogan

Pride through Performance

GOALS

Student Achievement

- 90% test scores (quantitative)
- Participation levels (qualitative)
 - o Parent volunteer hours
 - o Students in Brain and Brawn each year

School Excellence

- Full school (475 students) w/ waiting list (25%)
- No debt by EOSY 2013
- Community Outreach – 4 events in 2008 to 2009
- 90%
 - o Student Retention
 - o Parent Satisfaction
 - o Teacher (Staff) Retention