

**VENTURA CHARTER SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND GLOBAL EDUCATION**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes

Date: October 18, 2007

6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER, *open session resumed following closed session at 7:25pm*

1. Roll Call: Geoff Glick, Roni Adams, Dave Cook, Andy Gilman, Rosie Ornelas and Matt Cahn present.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Geoff Glick, seconded by Dave Cook; motion carries unanimously

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

C. HEARINGS: None

D. CLOSED SESSION:

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
One Teacher Position

During closed session the board discussed and accepted the resignation of a teacher and the related settlement agreement. The Board voted 4-yes and 1-no to accept the resignation as follows: Geoff Glick – no; Roni Adams-yes; Dave Cook-yes; Andy Gilman-yes; Rosie Ornelas-yes; Matt Cahn-yes.

The Board voted 4-yes and 1-no to accept the related settlement agreement as follows: Geoff Glick – no; Roni Adams-yes; Dave Cook-yes; Andy Gilman-yes; Rosie Ornelas-yes; Matt Cahn-yes.

E. PRELIMINARY

1. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting September 20, 2007

Motion to approve minutes of September 20, 2007 with revisions made by Matt Cahn, seconded by Dave Cook, motion carries unanimously.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

Roni and the members of the Board received a letter from a parent with serious concerns regarding various situations on campus. It is a lengthy letter with a lot of issues. Roni stated that the Board takes these issues seriously, there is a school internal complaint, and these concerns will be addressed through that procedure. If there isn't resolution after that, these concerns will be brought back to the Board.

G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Rosie presented a correspondence addressed to the Board from an art gallery downtown. The correspondence expresses a desire to create a relationship with our school and it is an invitation to the Board to meet at their facility. It is part of Bell Arts on Ventura Avenue. This is a relationship the school is interested in cultivating. Mary offered to send a thank you note.

H. PTC Report –

Cy Stanly

Cy summarized the last PTC meeting to the Board. Briefly, Melissa Navarro is acting PTC Co-Chair. Sharon Gorsch stepped up as Community Relations Director. Cy has offered to step up as a temp Co-Chair to facilitate creation of an MOU between the Board and PTC.

I. VCOE Liaison Report: M.L. Peterson (not present)

J. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (The Directors will report on the activities of the school since the previous Board meeting.)

Teachers' Report – Krysten and Robin

Robin spoke about what the 1st – 2nd grade classes are involved in currently including a family unit, where families take photos and students write about each member. Students are also writing an autobiography. The unit will have a global aspect when they share where in the world student's families come from. At the end they will have a celebration with a family potluck.

Lisa Hildebrand, Director of Education,

- Campout – the campout had about 350 people in attendance. The 7th and 8th grade did a ropes course the first day; there were 2 campfires: K-4 and the 5th – 8th grades, because of the school's growing size. It worked well for the elders to do some things separately.
- Directors' Dialogs – the Directors are holding monthly informal meetings with interested parents, switching days and times to hear appreciations and address concerns.
- Hiring – the School is conducting interviews for a 5th -6th grade teacher and some paraeducators, three people are very interested, looking for a long term sub for the rest of the year with the potential for fulltime placement.
- Use of DeAnza Field – School representatives met with DeAnza principal and the PE staff to discuss the shared use of the field and basketball courts. A concern was expressed that our parents need to be more visible. A suggestion was made to use neon green badges and boundaries were clarified. The School now have use of one basketball court. (Board member suggests to put badge on a lanyard)
- Parent education - Julie Nevison gave a free parent meeting on parenting issues.
- Newsletter- Kim Winch is putting together a monthly newsletter which will be out before the first of the month.
- Halloween- first thing in the morning on the day. Then an integrated arts day on Friday.
- Middle school - there was a meeting about the proposed trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Teachers are trying to be as thorough as possible to get commitment; it will cost about \$1500.00 for each student. They are assessing scholarship

needs; Lisa will go on the trip (Christi will be on maternity leave) as well as a paraeducator; there will be six chaperones taking approximately 43 students.

Mary Galvin, Director of Operations

- Enrollment – presented enrollment numbers, 267 students, 20 are in the Independent Study program.
- Accounting training - Escape online training done, Mary now submitting Purchase Orders online, no training on reports yet.
- Proposition 39 Request – on 9/24 Mary submitted Prop 39 facilities request, asked for 12 classrooms plus a multipurpose room, more administration space, space remains a challenge.
- Class size reduction application completed.
- Online auction committee met and made plans.
- Interviewed for new office assistant, found someone who will be brought to the board for approval at the next meeting; she will start on Nov. 5th.
- Spring Fundraiser – Meeting with city staff about the Spring Fundraiser, which presents an opportunity to reach out to more diverse groups, our fundraiser coincides with the Dia de los Nino (Day of the Child).
- CCSA – (California Charter School Association) is meeting in Los Angeles on Saturday the 27th. It is free. Mary is willing to go. Geoff is interested, Andy might also be interested.

Rosie would be willing to chair a grant committee as she has a lot of information.

- VUSD approved a playground, Joe confirmed about 4-6 weeks for delivery.

K. LEGISLATIVE REPORT (Board Members, the Directors, and staff, may discuss current legislation of particular interest to Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education.)
AB 1281

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 1281 by Assemblywoman Soto. AB 1281 would have added another section to the charter school petition to force charter schools to outline how they would provide special educational services to their students and who would provide those services. CCSA was opposed to this measure believing it to be an unnecessary bill.

L. CONSENT/ACTION

Ratification of purchase orders, check register, summary of revenues and expenditures.

Gifts to school:

---\$47.08 from Target escrip

---\$100.00 from Carl Freeman and the Pierpont Bay Foundation, Inc.

---17 personal computers, 1 server, 1 tape backup from USFWS (Forestry and Wildlife service)
Ventura FWO (acquisition cost \$26,250.)

Rosie mentioned that she knows of a woman in the city who personally gets old computers to Ventura children. Geoff suggests to make sure our drives are wiped clean of all programs if computers are donated.

Motion to accept the donations to the school listed above made by Rosie Ornelas, seconded by Matt Cahn, motion carries unanimously.

M. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION

1. Budget Update:

Cindy Hanson,

There will be much more detailed discussion at the Board retreat tomorrow. Cindy comments that separate reporting is required for grades 3 and 4 in the attendance record because they are funded at different rates.

Cindy gave a handout to the board. She also explained attendance periods, P1 and P2. The school is funded off of the P2 attendance period. P1 gives a snapshot but the school is not funded from it. There are some differences; lottery is funded from the full year; upper grades are funded higher than the lower grades-- for grades K-3rd \$5,589/student, grades 4th-6th \$5,673/student, upper grades \$5,835/student.

2. Personnel Leaves:

Amendment of Personnel Leave Policy is requested.

Matt Cahn handed out a proposed personnel leave policy. The proposal includes comments to comply with state code and reflect the desire of the board.

Lengthy discussion ensued including comments from teachers in attendance. The discussion revolved around a delicate balance of wanting to give teachers the best benefits for all they give the school and making sure the school stays solvent.

After much discussion, points of general agreement included:

- Offering 6 weeks Parental Leave at 50% pay (that does not require exhausting sick leave)
- Parental leave not limited to a birthing mother (can include an adoptive parent or father)
- Offering a birthing mother the option of taking up to 6 weeks of existing sick leave before taking Parental Leave (for a maximum of 12 consecutive weeks)
- If sick leave is taken first, it has to be adjacent to the 6 weeks Parental Leave

Matt will make language changes reflecting this discussion by the end of the day tomorrow for attorneys to review.

Special meeting set for Wednesday the 24th at 7:30pm to vote on final language.

3. After School Program Space:

Approval is requested for purchase of temporary structure for after school program.

Mary reported on efforts to get an empty room at DeAnza or approval for a structure on our site. Joe Richards said there were no available rooms at DeAnza for our school use. Budgeted \$5,000 but the cost would be much more than that to install a structure.

Much discussion ensues.

Motion to approve \$5,000 for purchase of a temporary structure for the after school program made by Rosie Orneleas, seconded by Geoff Glick, motion carries unanimously.

Board approves Debbie asking Joe Richards directly.

For now, Debbie will use a classroom in the afternoon.

4. After School Care Stipend:

Approval is requested for a monthly stipend for the teacher whose classroom is used for after school care.

The directors will come back with a dollar amount.

No action taken.

5. Part time Independent Study Teacher:

Discussion and decision is requested by Jan Magson to hire a part-time hourly teacher for this program.

Jan commented that our independent study program has doubled since last year even without advertising.

Motion to approve of part-time independent study part time teacher consistent with the FTS at the hourly teacher rate made by Dave Cook, seconded by Geoff Glick, motion carries unanimously.

6. Office Clerical Salary:

Motion to approve increasing office clerical salary from \$10.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour made by Dave Cook, seconded by Andy Gilman, motion carries unanimously.

7. Calendar approval:

Motion to approve moving November 16th parent conference day to November 14th made by Matt Cahn, seconded by Dave Cook, motion carries unanimously.

8. Board Member Selection:

The Selection Committee recommends approval for Sara O'Conlon and Rebecca Willhite to join the Ventura Charter School Board.

Sara O'Conlon unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Rebecca Willhite is present.

Motion to approve board members Sara O'Conlon and Rebecca Willhite made by Dave Cook, seconded by Rosie Ornelas, motion carries unanimously.

N. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Teacher contracts, talked to attorney it would cost \$3000-\$5,000 to review contracts and policies.
- Tri county GATE council has a couple of parent nights per year, staff could likely attend (Dave).

O. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Teacher contract review
- Continued purchase of other districts' sick leave (Mary)
- Teacher extended or sabbatical or leave of absence (Lisa)
- Exit interviews from teachers (Dave and Rosie)

P. FUTURE MEETINGS

Date: Friday, October 19, 2007 9:00 a.m. Board Retreat
Pierpont Inn, Ventura, CA 93002

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura, CA 93001

Purpose: Regular Meeting of the Board

Q. ADJOURNMENT

11:00 p.m. adjourned