

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: March 20, 2008**

**A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:40 p.m.**

1. Roll Call: Beckie Willhite, Geoff Glick, Andy Gilman, Sara O'Conlon, Rosie Ornelas
2. Approval of Agenda: Sara O'Conlon moves to approve the agenda, Beckie Willhite seconds; motion passes unanimously.

Matt Cahn arrived at 6:55 p.m.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS: none**

**C. HEARINGS: none**

**D. CLOSED SESSION: 6:45 p.m.** Board Discussion regarding leave of absence for a school employee.

Open session resumes: 7:05 p.m.

**E. PRELIMINARY**

1. Report out of actions taken in closed session: Board voted to approve employee leave of absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting February 21, 2008: Beckie moves to approve minutes with corrections for February 21, 2008; Geoff seconds; Sara abstains; motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Lisa McEwan requested that guidelines for parents volunteering in the classroom regarding issues of church and state and faith and science to be signed at the beginning of the year. Matt asked questions. Rosie said parents are not teaching, but leading centers and this should be conveyed clearly to new parents; and that she had concerns about enforcement. Andy said running centers effectively can take a long time. Beckie would love to see a more developed orientation program and felt that guidelines should be in a handbook and not a contract to be signed. Andy recommends that the parents, Directors, board members Beckie, and Sara, get together with Lisa to work on the language. Geoff thought parents should be told once a month; Beckie agrees; Sara wants to see it in more than one place. Lisa H. worried about enforcement of a complex system of frequent notifications. Committee to meet to draft language.

## **F. CORRESPONDENCE: postponed until after G**

Andy read a letter from a parent concerned about the bathrooms being locked during class time. Lisa was asked to explain why students needed to get the bathroom key during class time (Bathrooms were opened for recess and lunch). Geoff stated his son had an accident, Matt said his son had a stomach ache. Much discussion between board members ensued about the pros and cons of the policy and discussion evolved into handling of parent/board member concerns.

## **G. PRESIDENT'S AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Andy presented a powerpoint to review information he learned at the CCSA conference; he attended sessions on the five dysfunctions of boards; fundraising, personnel, technology.

**H. PTC Report:** Melissa Navarro said the PTC discussed the bathroom policy. Concerns were raised about the lock being hard to open and a suggestion was made to make it easier to access. There was general agreement with the steps taken were appropriate. An art program was being discussed.

## **I. DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

Lisa: discussed the CCSA conference, parent teacher conferences, school dance, inservice, Integrated Arts Day, high school registration, tour, group emailing; School Site Council, next board agenda, electives.

Mary: CCSA conference; Prop 39 facilities update with VUSD, city partnerships, ArtWalk, ArtFest

Jan: storytelling festivals in Ojai and Ventura High School

**J. LEGISLATIVE REPORT :** Prop 39 update, Sara mentioned that she is available to attend budget revise meetings in Sacramento if necessary.

## **K. CONSENT/ACTION**

1. Ratification of purchase orders, check register, summary of revenues and expenditures.
2. Gifts to school:
  - Pens: \$573.28 Kim Winch;
  - Target: \$35.46;
  - Yamaha keyboard, bench, stand, cord, instruction book, \$500.00 Dale and Lupe Dean
  - \$1000.00 Donation: Behavioral Science TechnologySara moved to accept; Matt seconded; motion carries unanimously

## **L. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/ACTION**

1. Calendar: Lisa presented the proposed calendar for the school year 2008-2009. There was discussion that starting school for only 2 days before Labor Day may cause a loss of ADA, but by moving closer to the VUSD calendar is a good thing. Motion to approve calendar as presented by Matt seconded by Rosie, opposed by Geoff; motion carries.

2. Performance Planning Tool and Leadership Best Practice model: Andy Gilman presented a powerpoint outlining a performance planning tool and model for discussion and Committee development. Board comments were positive and supportive of using this to support all staff growth. There was discussion about the evaluation of Directors. This tool can be developed for use for Directors, Board members, and teachers. Andy will pursue the development of the tool with Lisa. Andy requested a closed session item to evaluate Directors at next meeting using last year's survey.

3. Personnel Policies: Andy reported the recommendations from the Committee regarding "at will" employment of school employees. The Committee agreed that the Human Resource, contract, and Personnel policy should be combined and consistent. Performance based assessment was agreed upon. There was discussion about the school being a cause-based vs. an at-will employer. The Committee met three times to discuss and voted 4-1 to be an "at-will" employer. Matt explained why he believed the School should not be. Discussion ensued and Andy requested that the discussion come back to the Board and be towards the first of the meeting with an allocation of 60 minutes.

4. Grant Writing Committee:  
Report of Committee Meeting held 2-29-08.

5. Strategic Plan:  
There was Board discussion regarding the creation of a 3-5 year strategic school plan. Sara said she would ask her colleague to address stakeholders about the plan process by the next meeting.

6. Board Agenda Items:  
Clarification is requested regarding the setting of Board Agenda items. Discussion ensued to encourage parents to go first to the Directors with complaints. There was a lengthy discussion about the bathroom policy and clarification was made that it is the President's job to set the agenda in cooperation with the Director of Operations.

#### **M. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Matt says it's good to have discussions even if we disagree.

#### **P. ADJOURNMENT**

10:25 p.m.

Approved 4/17/08