

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD
CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY
RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
March 28, 2006**

Place and Time of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Carolina School for Inquiry Board was held at Crane Creek Community Center, 7405 Fairfield Road, Columbia, SC, on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. pursuant to notice having been duly given to the media and to all members of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Board.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The following members were present:

Stacie Mandrell, Sue Carstensen, Trina Randle, Hans von Rautenfeld, Jeannie Eidson, and Mark Roberts

Members absent: Kathy Thomas

Adoption of Agenda

The chair called for the adoption of the agenda for the March 28 regular meeting.

A copy of the agenda for the March 28 regular meeting is attached to these minutes.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer's Report?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Committee – Jeannie Eidson

The board discussed the money needed for architectural fees - \$3715.00, which is down from \$5700.00 Linda has given more building space to alleviate code issues that made the price higher. Jeannie needs approval for payment of the \$3715 and to sign the contract.

OSF will do a walk through and if everything passes it will be go on, otherwise, we have a contingency plan.

Jeannie Eidson moved that the board approve payment of the \$3715 for not to exceed \$5700 to Sherer & Associates, LLC. Hans von Rautenfeld seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Air conditioning units are coming in April 15, and we need to help pay for them. Several options are discussed about how to provide the money for the units, credit lines, different banks, approved accounting options and the various points related to each.

Jeannie Eidson moved that the board authorize Jeannie to visit banks with Bill Moser and Cathy McCabe to set up a line of credit up to \$100,000. Hans von Rautenfeld seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Quinton Epps is looking into fencing and will be getting back to us with various options.

We have a lease for the building and we are going to get our lawyer to look at it. We have a separate letter that is going to describe how we are going to pay on the air conditioning units for part of the rent payments.

Jeannie Eidson moved to approve signing the lease after the lawyer reviews and approves it. Hans von Rautenfeld seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Interview Committee – Stacie Mandrell

The committee interviewed another teacher –Jamaal Barr- who is interested in working with the school.

Stacie Mandrell moved to approve hiring Jamaal Barr. Jeannie Eidson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The interview committee has chosen 4 of the applicants for the 2 teaching positions.

Teacher contracts: there was a general discussion from prospective teachers and board members about teacher contracts, which included the issues of at-will employment vs. other kinds, contingencies, school philosophy. Prospective teachers will take the contracts and sign them at their pleasure.

Sue Carstensen moved to approve to accept this teacher contract. Hans von Rautenfeld seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Cathy McCabe is our lawyer based on her past history, recommendations, economics, and her service to date. We have received an engagement letter from them. Sue Carstensen described letter to board and answered general questions related to lawyer.

Sue Carstensen moved to approve the engagement letter. Hans seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

On-Line Project Management

Jeannie Eidson and Mark Roberts discussed and described project management software –CSI Online Project Management- and access to the site. To access guest account put in guest and guest for password. Questions were asked and discussion about the product was completed.

Student Enrollment Issues and update

Stacie Mandrell gave an update on student enrollment issues. We have more applications in and adjustments are being made and we have moved into our waiting lists. Some information has been entered into the system. Our target is 90 students and we have those including the waiting list. Numbers of different types of students were discussed.

Most of our students who need special attention will need special attention for speech. There is one student who has severe disabilities. We need to find a speech teacher and we have money available for that. We have more boys than girls.

Summer Professional Development

Teachers will come in for a week and 2 days for the week of July 10 to speak about several issues. A plan was passed out. Staff will also visit the center.

Several books were mentioned and prices for the professional development, books, etc. were discussed. Money is set aside for professional development in the budget. Questions were asked about what other choices that we should spend the money on for development. Other choices are the NTCE. Should the board give Stacie Mandrell the authorization for spending the professional development budget. It would also be appropriate to develop a plan for spending the professional development money.

Stacie Mandrell moved to allow the teachers to get the professional development. Hans von Rautenfeld seconded. The motion was approved.

Bringing in Ellen Thompson for \$3000 for 2 days for professional development – June 27 and 28 was discussed.

Stacie Mandrell moved to contract with Ellen Thompson for \$3000. Sue Carstensen seconded. The motion was approved.

Family cookout

We will get meat at cost.

\$ Stacie Mandrell moved to approve \$97 for the cookout meat. Jeannie Eidson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mark Roberts moved to approve another 150 for the cookout. Sue Carstensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

There was a discussion about grills for family cookout. T shirts will be given to teachers.

Bus news

Any bus that seats more than 14 people needs to have a CDL. Do we need more than a 14-seat bus or can we use the smaller buses. We may not be able to afford a new bus. Used buses generally have no warranty and lots of miles. We might not need a bus for the first year. However, we are not spending the entire amount at one time, but will have a payment – are there leases available? Need more info and options on buses. Mark Roberts is working on it.

Equipment & Furniture

Copiers: The options from DOS are better after doing research. The basic difference is speed; faster is more expensive. The board discussed options involving leasing or buying.

Hans von Rautenfeld recommended the \$9000 machine in a lease, with a discussion about add-ons, including folding, stapling, etc.

Hans von Rautenfeld moved that we lease the \$9000 machine. Sue Carstensen seconded the motion. The motion to enter into a contract with them was approved.

Teachers may check out items at Office Maxes that are closing and bring in ideas to next meeting.

Sue Carstensen moved to approve \$1350 of furniture from Harmony, accepting a friendly amendment changing the amount to \$1500. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Stacie Mandrell will keep the records in one location until the school is actually started and it can be one location.

The board discussed whether the board should have an executive committee that can approve items so that things can be done quickly with the Board's consent. These items would be laid out and pre-authorized by the board. Someone will work on this and come back to board with recommendations next time. The committee would consist of Stacie Mandrell, the Director and someone else, maybe another board member. Mark Roberts volunteered.

Sue Carstensen moved to approve spending up to \$500 with Stacie Mandrell and the director's approval. Mark Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings will be held on second and first Tuesdays.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

