

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD
Carolina School for Inquiry
RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
March 20, 2007

Place and Time of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Carolina School For Inquiry Board was held at Carolina School for Inquiry, 7405-A Fairfield Road, Columbia, South Carolina, on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 6:30 pm pursuant to notice being 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:

Jeannie P. Eidson, B. Quinton Epps, Mark A. Roberts, Laurie Gantt, Darlene S. Bell, and Jonathan L. Moreno

Additional Attendees : Bill Moser, Stacie Mandrell, Victoria Dixon-Mokeba

Approval of Minutes:

Laurie moved that the minutes be approved pursuant to the following modifications:

- a. Change the date from March 20, 2007 to March 6, 2007
- b. Add the approval of an across the board 3.3% raise to teacher contracts being issued and give Victoria authority to negotiate Teacher Assistant contract

Darlene seconded the motion. Quinton recused himself. The motion passed unanimously

February Financial Report

Bill Moser presented current CGS financial statements. Mark moved that they be approved. Darlene seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments: None

New Business

Mark updated the board on the staff/board potluck dinner on March 25, 2007 at 3 pm.

Mark suggested that any decisions that the board make that require the Director or Curriculum Coordinator to take action be given in Memo form in addition to verbal.

Victoria informed the board that the Spanish Teacher has resigned.

Mark moved that we accept the Administrator evaluation that is attached and begin developing an evaluation procedure. Laurie seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark moved that we approve \$500 for the completion of the tree/quiet garden. Jonathan seconded the motion. There was not discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Upper Elementary/Middle School Presentation - Quinton moved that the 6th grade proposal be approved with the graph key modification pursuant to Mark's recommendation and Quinton's recommendation that we withdraw the proposal if insufficient kids participate. Jonathan seconded the motion. There was not additional discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Additionally, the Board was reminded that previously approved By-law changes would also be presented to the Richland County 1 Board.

The Board requested that a board members (Mark Roberts and Jeannie Eidson) be present in TA contract negotiations.

Executive Session

The board entered Executive Session at 9:05 pm.

Executive Session ended at 9:42 am

Laurie moved to adjourn at 9:52. Mark seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carolina School for Inquiry

The mission of the Carolina School for Inquiry is to teach a diverse population of children in an atmosphere of kindness that encourages active inquiry, fosters individual growth and promotes respect for self, others and the world in which they live.

Director's Report March 20, 2007

New Business:

Richland One:

- **PACT Prep for Test Coordinators/Administrators:** April 19, 2007-Stacie and I both plan to attend since this process is new to both of us.
- **Visit from Donna Hammet-RCD1 Charter School Liaison-**Donna was very complimentary of the facility and the learning that was taking place in each learning environment. She informed me of upcoming events including the Charter School Annual Review-see attachment.
- **RCD1 Fiscal Procedures-**Since our payroll is bi-weekly, Mr. Carlon is working with me to ensure that our EFA funds are submitted in timely fashion that supports our payroll. His office has been very supportive and responsive to my requests.
- **2007-08 School Report Card** –The teachers completed the school wide survey in February. Parents of fifth grade students only are required to complete the parent survey. Ten surveys were sent home and 9 have been returned. Parents have the option to mail the form in to the State Department themselves. Fifth grade students in the Upper Elementary classes are also required to complete the student survey. The forms are due on March 27, 2007. I plan to mail them this week.
- **Food/Nutrition Grant-**I attended a workshop in an effort to secure a \$2,000.00 Food and Nutrition grant. We were denied the award because the grant requires that at least 66% of students participate in the school lunch program. Currently we have 33% of students who currently participate. Mrs. Clark is working to ensure that we meet the daily supplemental guidelines. These numbers may change once we serve warm lunches. We are still awaiting the Fire Marshall to come and check the gas line before we can install the gas convection oven. If we don't pass the inspection the option would be to purchase an electric oven with the prices starting at \$2,300.00.

Other

- **Jump Rope for Heart-**Based on the numbers from our Physical Educator, CSI raised over \$3,000.00. A representative presented a banner to the school in recognition of our accomplishments. Fran did a fabulous job organizing the events.
- **Contracts-**Deadline has been extended two weeks.
- **Classroom visits-**I'm working with teachers weekly with tasks based on their needs.

RCRC

- **Technology-**RCRC continues to provide technical support when needed. Six new computers have been installed in the computer lab and are available for our use.
- We have leased another classroom in the building to help support music classes, professional development and special education services.

- **Mentoring Program**-Linda and I are in conversation about offering an after school tutoring program which will involve community partners.
- **Parent University**-Sessions are going well. We have two sessions remaining for the year. RCRC is applying for the grant again.
- **RCRC Dedication Ceremony**-April 19th -All community partners will be recognized CSI will make a special presentation and the students will sing School is Cool. RCRC will cater the food. All families are invited.
- **School Wide Pizza Lunch**-A parent delivered pizzas for us and we were able to purchase 20 large pizza's at \$5.00 each. The families provided snacks, juice and fruit. Students and staff really enjoyed the change.
- **Charter School Conference**- April 13-15, 2007
- **Curriculum Coordinator's Evaluation**-See attachment

Old Business

Lottery: Families have a March 30, 2007 deadline to decide if their child will attend CSI. After this date has expired and no information has been received we will proceed to contact the next applicant on the waiting list. Enrollment is only final when we receive the enrollment applications on or before March 30, 2007. We are getting calls daily as more families are enrolling their students for the waiting list.

Friends of CSI-May Fest-May 19 2007

Co-Chairs	Stacie Mandrell & Kristen Maxfield
Tickets and Budget	Vickie Laughlin & Ashley Moreno
Games and Booth Planning	Lorrie Price & Briddie Robinson
Prizes and Planning	Issac & Val Cochran
Food Sales Planning	Shannon Jones & Kim Spann
Bake Sale/Cake Walk Planning	Teresa Payne
Publicity	Andie Freeman & Erica Brannon
Community Booth Planning	Kenya Cannon & Yvette Turnipseed
Volunteers	Kathy Thomas
Silent Auction (rep from each class)	Linda McLeod & Terri Washington

1

Guest Visitors:

- March 12th Courtney Simmons- Gullah History (school wide)
- E.B. Lewis Author/Illustrator
- Dr. Edgar SC History and Archives
- Mr. Kohn-Rocks and Mineral

Other-Contracts-executive session



Curriculum Coordinator's Report March 17, 2007

Special Education – Three students have been identified as needing further testing in order to receive special services. We have a school psychologist who will be testing these children this week. Once testing is complete we will be able to follow through with providing further services for these children. We have two other children that are in the process of being brought up but not quite ready for a psychological evaluation.

Narrative Report Cards – Third nine week narrative report cards will go out on the 22nd.

Half Day Curriculum Conversation – Canceled for teachers to work on narrative report cards.

Upper Elementary Extended Field Study – A meeting was held last Thursday night for all Upper Elementary Parents regarding the trip to the upstate. They are very excited and enthused about the possibility of being without their child for three days ☺. The students are hosting various fundraisers in order to raise money for the trip. We would like the school to possibly pay the cost for the transportation. We are currently investigating the least expensive mode of transportation.

USC Interns – I am currently in contact with USC about next years intern students. We will most likely be hosting both Early Childhood and Elementary practicum students and student teachers.

Summer Camp – We are continuing to talk about Summer Camp possibilities. A note has gone home to parents about ideas and interest and we will have a proposal to present to the Board by the next Board Meeting.

West African Drumming – I have found someone to lead our after school drumming. I will contact the Carolina Foundation to make sure we can hang on to our grant money. Darren Gilley, Executive Director of Borenya West African Drumming and Dance was recommended to by Debbie Homes (Director at Harmon). He will begin work with the kids on Tuesday. He is able to work with 40 kids rather than just the eight that were involved with MOVE so this is a plus. He has drums that we can use to get started and he is working on getting us our own set that we will purchase with the grant money. He is also interested in working with the summer camp and would like to work with us on a permanent basis next year if the possibility exists that we can add another related arts class. Borenya's website is www.borenya.org and I will provide his bio on Tuesday night.

PACT Prep – We have worked during two different Curricular Conversations on teaching testing as a genre. All teachers are engaging in some sort of work that involves talking with kids about testing language and thinking about tests as simply another genre that author's write in.

Summer Professional Development – We have started discussing ideas for the summer PD and we will settle on specifics by the next Board Meeting. All teachers are interested in more information about teaching in a multiage setting so we will likely invite Ellen Thompson to come back and work with us some more.

Curriculum Night – Next week's Curriculum Night will be an opportunity for parents to see the Dominie winter scores compared with the fall scores. We will also use it as an opportunity for parents to come and share ideas, questions and concerns for next year.