

MINUTES OF THE CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY BOARD MEETING- OCTOBER 28TH, 2010

The October 28th 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carolina School for Inquiry was called to order at 7:20pm by Kathy Duffy-Thomas. The meeting was delayed because a quorum was not present.

First order of business was the reading of the schools mission statement

Members Present: Kathy Duffy Thomas, Queen Bonapart, Samuel Darko, Clifton J. Hall, Wilfred G. Rogers

Non Members Present: Victoria Dixon Mokeba, Tracy Kelly-Moser, David Church

The agenda was modified and unanimously approved

The minutes were approved unanimously on a motion from Queen Bonapart and a second from Samuel Darko.

Finance Committee: Mr. Darko reported that while doing a research of available grants, he discovered that there is about 55 million dollars in available grants that our school should be interested in pursuing. He will begin the process of getting with Victoria and investigating which ones to pursue. 2) Mr. Darko also reported that as we approach the end of the calendar year and the beginning of tax season, we should be looking for monies from people who want to make donations to the school for year-end tax write-offs. 3) His goal is to raise \$5000.00 in the near future so that we can began the process of creating long term income for the through the development of a foundation or hold capital gains project.

Tracy Kelly-Moser, the school's accountant, was next with the monthly budget report. She discussed the changes in the budget's line items and noted that because the school has some new staff, many of the line item allocations will be lower and some will be higher. 2) Consideration needs to be made to acquiring some CD's, money market accounts or other avenues to move some of the money out of our general account into an account where the school can receive greater dividends.

A motion to receive the Finance committee's report as information was made by Queen and seconded by Wilfred.

A report from Dr. David Church was next on the Agenda. Dr Church is the Director of the S.C. Coalition for Achievement Now, which is a charter school advocate and lobbyist for Charter schools. Dr Church is not representing S.C. Public Charter Schools in any manner. Dr Church talked with the board about how we should try to avoid many of the pitfalls that some charter school boards make. He suggested that we as a board read "Boards That make a Difference"

and use that book as a guide for our operations. 2) Dr Church talked about the newly adopted CSI Board Process Policy” and the 5 parts of the policy.3) we reviewed the modified Evaluation Instrument for the Principal/Director/ Lead teacher which was adopted on 8/17/10. Discussion was held on the instrument itself as well as the process for applying the instrument and the tools needed to complete the process.

Education Committee: no report

Facility Committee: Serious discussion was held on how much of the school’s annual income goes toward rental of our current facility from RCRC. Mr. Darko emphasized the importance of trying to secure our very own structure and appropriating the money we use for rental towards our own mortgage. The committee was charged with beginning the process of finding a permanent facility.

Governance: Charged with setting up the timeline for conducting the evaluation of the Director.

Director’s report:

- Introduced the faculty present
- Reported on the school’s participation in the District’s Art Show
- The school hosted a group of German teachers for a day. The group was a part of a visiting team from USC.
- Student Gov’t is still doing well. They are learning leadership skills and what it takes to be a good leader.
- The schools current enrollment is 108. The capacity is 126. The student population is a diverse group both ethnically and culturally. The school is in a constant recruitment mode
- The school has 60 brand new notebook laptop computers. They now have the districts license to install software and will begin doing so immediately. More laptops are coming.
- The school is exploring free help to develop the media center. There are some people who have media center experience who have expressed interest in volunteering to help. The school will do the background check on those persons before inviting any of the volunteers to help.
- The school is re-exploring the return of student teachers from USC and Benedict. It is understood that the Director must supervise and monitor the students. The Governance Committee must look at the policy for student teachers and change if necessary.

- **A motion was made by C. Hall and seconded by S.Darko to abridge the policy on student teachers and allow their return. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Discussion was held on finding incentives for the schools good teachers as a means of keeping them at CSI.
- The November and December meeting dates have been changed to: November 16th at 7:00 and December 16th at 7:00.
- Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Nov. 23rd at 11:00am. All board members are encouraged to attend.

The board went into Executive Session at 9:05 on a motion from C. Hall and seconded by Rogers.

Executive Session Ended at 9:10pm on a motion from C. Hall and second from S.Darko.

A motion was made by C.Hall and seconded by S. Darko to go with the schools lawyers' recommendation to use the magistrate for the personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by C. Hall and seconded by Q. Bonapart to approve the contracts of 3 teachers and 1 guidance counselor for the current school year. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14pm on a motion from C. hall.