

North Side Community School

Board Minutes

February 1, 2011

Present: Ross Woolsey and John Grote (ex officio)

Via Teleconference: Ray Thorpe, Vivian Gibson, Pat Shipley, Jim Brigham, Tom Grote, Steve Novik, Sue Cejka, Anne Miller (guest). Absent: Byron Francis

1. Meeting convened at 4:50PM at NSCS campus.
2. Election: Alex Schoch was unanimously elected to board (via e-mail voting prior to meeting).
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 1-4-11 meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.
4. Policy Regarding Capitalization: Woolsey explained that auditor has indicated Board must establish a policy regarding capitalization vs. expensing of items. Motion made to capitalize all items of \$1000 or more, seconded, approved unanimously.
5. Approval of Policies needed for Fed Grant monies: J. Grote explained that, in connection with application(s) for federal grants, NSCS must establish policies regarding school treatment of migrants, homeless and "Language Learner" students and applicants. Proposed policies had been distributed to Board prior to meeting for review. After discussion of implementation requirements and NSCS's ability to meet those requirements, motion was made to approve proposed policies as submitted, seconded, and approved unanimously.
6. Pre-K Program: J. Grote recounted discussions over past few months regarding creation of a Pre-K program at NSCS, particularly prohibition of use of state funds for program. Grote noted staff support for proposed program, which would consist of 15 four-year-olds beginning in 2011-12 school year. Grote emphasized: importance of starting with students early to increase their readiness upon entering NSCS; advantage Pre-K program would give NSCS in attracting students if SLPS introduces a charter school in the neighborhood; need to ensure that no funds be diverted from NSCS to Pre-K program (funding source must be fully separate). Grote estimated \$50,000 needed for program, Anne Miller concurred. Board indicated sufficient interest in concept to warrant staff creation of a formal proposal including evaluation of funding opportunities. Miller and Grote to create formal proposal for Board consideration.
7. Lease with NBA: J. Grote related recent conversation with the new NBA-STL president, Mark Anderson. Anderson indicated he is too new to position to offer specifics on arrangement, but he re-introduced possibility of purchase of property and suggested possibility of inclusion of additional building(s). Woolsey related his separate discussion with NBA board member (Roebuck) in which Roebuck indicated general support on Board for long-term lease with NSCS despite continuing resistance from a faction in NBA's community. There was discussion of how long NSCS can wait for NBA decision before devising alternative plan. Grote and Woolsey were both hopeful that resolution would be reached sufficiently soon. J. Grote to forward to Board a timeline of critical dates regarding facilities.
8. Financial Report: Woolsey asked whether timing and format of financial reports is acceptable to Board. Board indicated they are, but that year-to-date against budgets reports should be produced for each meeting and provided one week before each meeting. Cejka asked about resolution of Title I monies/reimbursement, it was agreed that the issue is in process of resolution.

9. Development: Woolsey indicated fundraiser set for May 7 at Schlafly Brewery (downtown) with 300 invitees, 100 expected to attend. Woolsey noted that primary purpose is to raise school's visibility among a group believed to be philanthropic and sympathetic to NSCS's mission. Event requires that a volunteer from Board to be named on the "Host Committee." No member volunteered during meeting.

10. Bi-Annual Review: J. Grote explained that UMSL has engaged Doug Thaman to conduct review on its behalf. Thaman to provide details of review in person at March board meeting.

11. Building Renovation: J. Grote announced that bids of \$144,000 and \$122,000 had been received, far in excess of expected cost of approximately \$50,000. Grote expressed his view that renovation plan be amended to get costs to \$50,000 area and asked whether a Board member would work with him to do so. T. Grote volunteered. It was agreed that March agenda would include update on renovation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.