

## Board Meeting Notes 9/6/11

Present: Vivian Gibson, Steve Novik, Pat Shipley  
On Phone: Sue Cejka, Jim Brigham  
Staff: John Grote, Ross Woolsey

1. Minutes of prior meeting approved.
2. Mr. Grote gave the Board a status update of the construction of the new building.
3. ED Grote lead a discussion of the transportation issues that the school faced during the first ten days of the new school year. Brigham suggested that the school really needed to get a bid on what it would cost to outsource our transportation, and ED Grote committed to do so.
4. There was a discussion of the Pre-K subsidy situation, and how it is handled in terms of actually applying for state aid. The board reiterated the need to keep Pre-K costs separately coded from NSCS costs, and the need to charge the Pre-K for the services they receive.
5. There was a discussion of the financial statements from July, the first month of the new year. Although P&L results were distributed, the statements did not include monthly performance against budget. This occurred because the final budget had not yet been approved and thus not entered into the QuickBooks accounting system.

Until the school has a better idea of the number of students enrolled, it is difficult to finalize a budget because so much of the revenue is dependent on the State's Basic Formula, which is driven by exact enrollment numbers. At the time of the Board meeting, (Sept. 6), the enrollment was still very much uncertain.

The late enrollment determination has occurred in each of our three years, and the staff has concluded this results primarily from the way our population and the neighborhood in which we serve tends to view the enrollment process of young children into elementary children.

6. The Board began a discussion on the need for board Committees, such as Finance or Facilities. The main discussion centered on whether a board the size of that for NSCS really needed to establish committees. Comparisons were made to schools of which Board members have knowledge (Rossman, Forsyth) but the general feeling of the Board was that those comparisons may not be germane due to great differences between those schools and NSCS.

Certain Board members stated their opinions that because of the size of the school, committees might be premature. A suggestion was made that because of their knowledge and expertise, perhaps an 'ad-hoc' committee consisting of Novik, Schoch, and Brigham be formed to advise the Executive Director on facilities issues.

The discussion then turned to more general issues, such as the need for a better

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articulated long term plan, and whether we need a committee to deal with that issue. How do we answer the questions, "Where are we?, Where are we going?, What is our Capacity? (not just in terms of student enrollment, but in our ability to function properly as an organization). It was pointed out that we don't currently have a written, agreed upon five-year plan, and perhaps that should be the first focus of any Board Committee work.

The general consensus (without a formal vote) was that the organization is still probably too small to require board committees. The Board agreed to consider the issue and re-visit at the October Board meeting.

7. Principal Erondou reviewed the first ten days of school.