

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD
CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR INQUIRY
RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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 Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 6:35 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, Kathy Thomas, Jeannie Eidson, Hans von Rautenfeld, Sue Carstensen

Members absent: Trina Randle.

Also present were: Robin Hill Davidson, Victoria Dixon Mokeba, Val Cochran, Sterling & Erica Brannon, Mark Roberts,

Adoption of Agenda

The chair called for the adoption of the agenda for the February 15, 2006 regular meeting.

A motion was made & accepted on a voice vote to adopt the agenda for the February 15, 2006, regular meeting, as presented, was made by Sue Carstensen with a second by Hans von Rautenfeld.

A copy of the agenda for the February 15, 2006 regular meeting is attached to these minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Hans Von Rautenfeld moved to postpone the approval of the minutes of previous meetings until next meeting & Jeannie Eidson seconded. The motion was approved with no objections.

OFFICIERS REPORTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Committee – Jeannie Eidson

Jeannie met with the architect, Karen Campbell. The RCRC has paid for plans. Code and safety issues came into question, but the building is grandfathered into old code because it was previously used as a school. The school is still safe and we may wish to follow some new code anyway.

Code analysis must be done. Schematic is available, which may cut costs.

The architect will check to see if we need to bid out the contract.

The new architect is green.

Safety issues – because of dead-end corridor, an exterior door might need to be added in conversation room.

Third air conditioning unit will be purchased by Carolina School for Inquiry. The Richland County Recreation Commission needs letter that says CSI will pay for unit for \$30,000. We need to borrow money to pay for unit.

Employment committee – Stacie Mandrell

The committee has not made recommendation for director position.

NEW BUSINESS

Elect New Board Member

A motion to nominate Mark Roberts for the board member was made.

A motion to close nominations was made by Sue Carstensen, and Hans von Rautenfeld seconded it.

A motion to accept Mark was made by Sue Carstensen, and Jeannie Eidson seconded it.

The motion passed on a voice vote.

Employees

Update on applicants

Stacie Mandrell announced there are seven applicants for five positions.

Ideas about teaching positions

Stacie Mandrell: Since there are such incredible teaching applications, CSI might consider other options for teaching. Currently, CSI has 2 K-1; 2 2-3; and 1 4-5 class. The 4-5 will have 12 students instead of 18. The 2-3 classes will have 16 students. As a way to keep good teachers, CSI could hire co-teachers.

Idea one: Form one large K-1 class with three certified teachers. CSI would leave the large classroom room big for first year to see how we use the space.

Idea two: CSI could find a way to hire two certified teachers in place of the teaching assistants.

Idea 3: CSI could keep teaching assistants.

Budget and Salaries

CSI will hold off on a decision until teachers have been interviewed.

Class sizes

Update on applications

There are many applications; CSI will need a lottery in all classes.

There seems to be a big demand in 4-5 class, CSI should consider possibility of second class of 12.

CSI will work out possibility of second 4-5 class as we interview teachers.

The lottery will occur first, & so we will start with 12 students and put the extras on waiting list and see if they are serious.

Lottery information

Bill Moser will explain how lottery works. There will be a public drawing.

Preference: (1) employees' kids are automatically accepted.

(2) 20% of spots can go to committee members' children, in the first year only.

(3) Siblings get priority.

(4) The rest is by lottery in each grade level.

The rules are in the proposal.

The lottery will take place at the next board meeting, March 7, 2006 at Crane Creek Community Center.

Stacie Mandrell will e-mail: lottery rules, Center rules

School Calendar

The Richland one calendar came out. They have professional days on 8/2, 3, 4, & 7, and school begins 8/8.

On our calendar: school begins 8/10; with half days on 8/10 & 11.

Hans von Rautenfeld will make a calendar for the website.

Professional development: Teachers will work 20 days in July. Professional development will include 1 week of Heidi, Tim & Dori; & Ellen Thompson for 2 days.

Vote later. The P & I grant will fund this.

A motion to adopt Richland one calendar with the changes that we will begin August 10, & the first two days will be ½ days, and end May 25, adjusting the 45 days etc. was made by Stacie Mandrell with a second by Sue Carstensen.

The motion carried with a voice vote.

School day: Stacie Mandrell suggests that we extend school day. Sue Carstensen suggests we start later. We can craft it around parents' schedules once we know the population of the school.

Kindergarten early admittance

If we admit children younger than 5 by the Sept. 1 deadline, we won't get funds for them.

A motion to adhere to public school guidelines in regards to age of admitting students was made by Stacie Mandrell with a second by Sue Carstensen. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Office Supplies

CSI will get bids for printing and other equipment, comparing buying & leasing: Hans von Rautenfeld and Stacie Mandrell

.

SCAPCS Conference

A motion to allocate money for two people to go to the SCAPCS conference April 20 – 22 at Litchfield beach was made by Sue Carstensen with a second by Mark Roberts. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Sixth grade

The board discussed the idea of expanding the 4-5 class to include 6th grade in the second year. The board decided to wait on any decision.

Other Business

The grant specialist from Acadia cannot help CSI because Richland One is our LEA. Richland One must apply and we must ask for money from them.

We will find grants & send them to the Richland 1 grant writer to apply.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The P&I Grant was awarded to CSI. It is \$220 thousand, although we are waiting for information about more.

The idea of a fundraiser was discussed, but CSI will not do a fundraiser now, because we have too much to do.

Mark Roberts has completed proposal for a grant which has been sent to the Central Carolina Community Commission. It is a one year grant for \$10 thousand. The proposal is for an after school enhancement program which will include a rotating artist in residence and parent workshops on issues to help parents help students.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Sue Carstensen with a second by Hans von Rautenfeld and approved with a voice vote.