

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
CAROLINA SCHOOL for INQUIRY
Richland County, South Carolina
July 15, 2008

Place and Time of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Carolina School for Inquiry was held at Carolina School for Inquiry, 7405-A Fairfield Road, Columbia South Carolina on Tuesday July 15th 2008 at 6:30 pm 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 Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:17pm. Prior to the start of the public meeting, members of the Board visited with the teachers and parents at the Upper Elementary orientation night.

The reading of the mission statement followed.

The following Board members were present: Kathy Duffy-Thomas, Jeannie Eidson, Mark Roberts, Darlene S. Bell, Quinton Epps, Queen Bonapart and Wilfred Rogers.

Additional Attendees: Victoria Dixon-Mokeba, Jacqueline Boulware, Teri Washington, Bill Moser, Mary Gholz, Chris Richards, Willie Mae Simuel, and Damon Hodges.

Agenda was amended to move some of the scheduled public reports to later in the meeting because Victoria had not arrived to introduce the new staffers. The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion from Jeannie and seconded by Darlene.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the June 3rd meeting were amended to reflect the change in “contract language” discussed in executive session. The minutes were approved as amended on a motion from Mark and a second from Darlene.

Committee Reports

Education: Quinton gave a rough draft of the proposed attendance/enrollment policy. Discussion was held and the item was sent back to committee to make sure that the proposed policy was in compliance.

Quinton also reported that he is not getting help from Donna Hammet of RCSD1 in getting leads on possible grants. It was agreed that we would continue to seek assistance elsewhere.

Facility: Jeannie reported that she spoke with Joe Frayle and Susan Williams of RCSD1 about inclusion in the districts Emergency Management Plan. After discussing with them, it appears that we are not going to be apart of the emergency plan through omission. Letters will be written to the Board of RCSD1 from the Board of CSI asking to be incorporated under the districts emergency management umbrella.

- Imagine School had requested that CSI investigate the possibility of renting part of their facilities on North Main St. and moving CSI to that location. The Board investigated the idea and determined that it is not a good idea. The Board will send a letter to Imagine thanking them for the invitation but declining the offer. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Wilfred to send a letter saying No Thanks. The motion passed unanimously.

After the report from the facilities committee the Board took a break from committee reports to allow Victoria to introduce the new staff and to hear public comments.

Public Comments: Victoria introduced Willie Mae Simuel and Damon Hodges as new teachers at CSI. Willie Mae is the new art teacher and Damon is the new Upper Elementary teacher. Following their introduction, Jackie Boulware commented that she wanted to solicit help from the board in obtaining grants. She also recommended that perhaps the board should adopt one major project a year. For example this year the focus could be building a business partnership. Her comments were reiterated by Chris.

Finance Committee: Bill Moser presented the June and End of Year Budget report. The adjustments to expenditures were discussed. Also discussed was what to do with money in the account when the balance exceeds \$100,000.00. Perhaps we should talk with someone about our investment options for short term and long term projects. A motion was made by Darlene and seconded by Queen to approve the budget for FY'08. The motion passed unanimously.

Other finance issues: Bill noted that the audit is going well. We should continue seeking to get bids from several auditors for future audits so that we will have one in place by October '08 for next years audit. Bill noted that the audit firm we seek should be a firm that can do schools and Government entities.

Governance Committee: Mark reported that the teacher's survey results were sent out. He also noted that the committee needs to meet with Victoria to work on her new evaluation instrument and timeline.

Supplemental benefits for employees were discussed and benefit reps will be contacted to meet staff.

Directors Report: Issues discussed included: getting retired persons to volunteer at the school on a regular basis to free up some time of the Instructional assistants so that they can utilized better.

Discussion was held about the possibility of getting a CSI bus. The issue was sent to facilities committee for review.

Discussion was held on the policy for out of district students since we are finding out that we have more out of district students then we realized and are not receiving funds for those students. The issue was referred to the Governance committee to investigate implementing an assessment policy to eliminate the free charge for out of district students.

David Edmonds: comments were sent to Education committee. He was also invited to become a member of that committee

Motion was made by Mark and seconded by Wilfred to go into executive session at 8:55pm.

Executive Session ended at 9:05 on a motion from Jeannie and seconded by Wilfred.
Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.