



THE WORLD IS OUR FAMILY

CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 10, 2011

Attendance:

	2010				2011							
	9/9	10/14	11/18	12/9	1/13	2/10	3/10	4/14	5/12	6/9	7/14	8/11
Nimish Bhatt												
Scott Elliott	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Charles Hutchison	X	X	X		X	X						
Sam Leder	X	X	X		X	X						
Karen Bailey	X											
Megan McNutt	X	X		X	X							
Maureen White	X	X		X	X	X						
Mystica Nelms	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Susan Schweitzer	X	X			X	X						
Kevin Weber	X		X	X	X	X						
Donna Harkey			X	X	X	X						
Abby Bottoms	X	X	X	X	X	X						

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

CIS Mission Statement: Kevin Weber

Student and Employee of the Month:

Students from each grade were recognized.

Mystica Nelms, Principal

Finance Report:

Discussion of projections on state budget.

Discussion of noted addition to waste management line.

Ms. Christine Quinn, Acadia, NorthStar

Christine Quinn reviewed the recommended changes discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, reflected on pg. 2 of handout. Recap of discussion from recent Finance Committee meeting of payment to NC Department of Revenue.

Sam Leder motioned to approve the recommended changes as detailed by Christine Quinn as well as a payment of \$8,200.00 for four months to the NC Department of Revenue and \$ 25,000.00 to the bank line of credit. Maureen White seconded. Motion passed.

Secretaries Report

Maureen White read January minutes. Sam Leder motioned for approval of January minutes. Charles Hutchison seconded. Motion passed.

Maureen White, Secretary

Committee Reports

Academic Report:

Mystica Nelms, Principal and Donna Harkey, Assistant Principal
Mystica Nelms gave an overview of academic status including the following points and newly implemented programs:

- Extravaganza
- Data patterns, test scores and changing Orchard as remediation tool to MAP
- Study Island – goal of 100% participation
- Professional development on environmental issues and writing plus upcoming teachbacks

- Interviews for 6th grade position
- Volunteer breakfast
- Australian teachers visit January 31- February 5
- Students from South Korea to visit
- Multicultural Celebration at Harrisburg Elementary
- “Turn the Tap” fundraiser through Student Council
- Teacher mid-year assessment and student mid-year jeopardy letters
- ID badges
- School Improvement Plan

Donna Harkey gave an overview of academic status including the following points and newly implemented programs:

- New behavior policies in place with tardies reducing dramatically and reduction of referrals
- RTI (Response to Intervention) including the teacher and parent in plan to differentiate response based on student

Charles Hutchison asked for information on the change from Orchard. Mystica Nelmes described the challenges to Orchard software (only a breakdown by skill area, no follow-up after remediation, no comparison to larger numbers) The new program, MAP, is more comprehensive. Scott Elliot noted that he previewed the software at recent NC Charter conference, agreed that it seems to take a common sense approach and stated that approximately 30% of charters in NC are using the program. Mystica Nelmes commented that a contact at DPI was attempting to connect CIS with other charters to defray cost by purchasing together.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:

James Schweitzer

Scott Elliot introduced James Schweitzer and commented on his work, in conjunction with ERate, to update the technology infrastructure at CIS. James Schweitzer outlined several challenges and solutions to the software/technology plan:

Challenges: Lack of capital investment and governance of purchases

Suggestions:

- Must improve infrastructure which includes current wireless infrastructure, power, electricity, cooling
- Discussions on how to extend opportunities outside the classroom/campus
- Discussions of data-driven successes and remediation plans
- Professional development to acquaint staff with new technology, explore creation of on-line content
- Discussions around topic: “Bring Your Own Computer” model, lease vs. buy models, software maintenance and “cloud-based” models
- When and what type of computers to provide to students (thin clients vs. another computing device)
- High-performance computer lab for upper grades
- Possible broad-band requirement for families,
- **FUNDING:** more aggressive fundraising, grants, ERate initiatives, possible technology fee

Discussion of how to secure the network.

Scott Elliot stated that it is preferable to avoid leasing computers and that the Board looked forward to hearing progress from the ERate initiatives on this complex plan.

PTSO:

Susan Schweitzer

Updates on the following initiatives:

- Extravaganza – Rocky River donated the coffee and Spirit Gear was sold
- Lost and found, uniform swap groups on Facebook
- Silent Auction on Sunday, March 13 at University Hilton, tickets on sale in car line
- Ice cream for Valentine’s Day
- Easter lily sale
- Upcoming elections for new positions

Staff Liaison:

Kevin Weber, Teacher Liaison to Board

Kevin Weber shared that Extravaganza was a success and he was pleased at number of students on A and B Honor Roll. He also shared a tree identification project underway.

Old Business

Scott Elliot announced that CIS had joined the NC Alliance of Charter Schools and that there is an option for parent membership.

Open Comments:

- Christine Clarke raised issues with a parent in the CIS parking lot and with hiring procedure of the principal.
- Addison Parrish read a letter describing the qualities of an ideal teacher taken from a survey of 7th and 8th grade students.
- Jill Parrish allowed Addison Parrish to finish her letter.

- Kim Lester asked questions regarding the payment of transportation and lodging for an incoming teacher from Missouri and inquired about the record of EOG scores. Scott Elliot responded that CIS did pay for one night of lodging for the incoming teacher from Missouri. under the administration's normal discretion
- Trisha Clarke stated her opinion as a former CIS student that the school had gone from "amazing to scary" and mentioned losing friends and teachers and the lack of learning in 5th and 6th grades. She stated that neither the Board or teachers seemed to care.
- Brian McGee and Eddie Skey spoke together with concerns over funds intended for the baseball team. Brian McGee read from a section the bylaws regarding conflict of interest when selecting vendors and asked for clarification on how/why the vender for athletic clothing was chosen. Brian McGee expressed frustration with dealing with the Board and school administration. Scott Elliot acknowledged and thanked the volunteers who have given time to create the Athletics Committee and programs at CIS.
- Stephanie Boshears asked for clarification on the money Brian McGee mentioned as raised with the intention of using it towards baseball purchases. Abby Bottoms replied that all money raised for or given to the school for all purposes is deposited into a general account but a separate ledger account is maintained and, though the intention is to use the money for the donated purpose, the school could use the funds for any purpose. Scott Elliot mentioned that this is how the administration handled the "Save our School" campaign funds and all were applied as intended.
- Cindy Sheppard commented that she saw the school "going downhill" and did not sense an open door or open ear policy. Commented that Mystica Nelmes was listed on the board of a publication that was out of date.
- Bruce Clarke stated that he found communication with CIS board and administration to be slow, terse and incomplete. He said he received an unsatisfactory response to the 17+ questions he had asked via email. He said he did still love the school despite removing his daughter and stated that the Board cannot operate in a vacuum. He stated that the Board must be accountable to the parents and teachers to the school.
- Skipper Pond stated that many families are unhappy and the future of the school was unclear. He stated that he received an email from the Board in June regarding the departure of the former administration and then in August for the hiring of the principal and nothing in between. He asked for clarification of Mystica Nelmes' qualifications as listed on the website in particular the grades she had taught.
- Sue Snyder mentioned that she was a founding family of CIS and shared memories of the earliest days of CIS. She shared concerns over the Board and over the hiring of Mystica Nelmes. She called for Scott Elliot to recuse himself.
- Connie Byrne stated that in her experience as a parent, she has always been happy with the experience and currently with the level of student accountability. She stated she was happy with the treatment she had received and that other parents were just as happy.
- Harry McKay spoke about his student in 6th grade being without a teacher.
- Quinise Billups stated that she would proceed with the withdrawal of her child. She also asked for clarification of a police call in the parking lot.

8:35

Sam Leder voted to go to closed session. Maureen White seconded. Motion passed.

Closed Session: Contract matters: personnel.

Open Session: 9:35 pm

- Contract for Sylvia Scott
- Offer the state sponsored 401K option to staff.

Sam Leder motioned for the two items discussed in closed session to be approved. Charles Hutchison seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment: 9:45 pm.

As Board Chair, I certify that these minutes have been reviewed and approved as they appear above.

Signature

Date