

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/27/2010

Board Members Present: John Moloney, Anne McIntosh, Evelyn Gerdes, Bill Neal, Chris Perri, Twan Ellison, Cara Jones.

Leadership Members: Kate Alice Dunaway, Chris Scholl, Tim Rhodes, Jennifer Gnann, Amy Sevic, Gloria Miller, Molly Manning.

- John Moloney, president of Board, brought the meeting to order. He introduces new board member Evelyn Gerdes.
- John Moloney spoke about the Middle School Robotics Competition. The Middle School won 1st Place overall and second place overall. The students also received honorable mention for enthusiasm and spirit. Trophies were passed for those to see. John also gave an update on First Robotics for the Upper School and how great our sponsors have been, as well as students.
- Anne McIntosh gave a Pride moment for AP's receiving grants (Mike Hartshorne received a \$5000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Bitsy Gregory received a \$300 grant from NC Zoological Park). Ron Pfeffer's environmental science students donated the funds for six bird house projects and were joined by Dr. Mark Stanback from Davidson College for the installation. The installation of bird houses are a critical step towards the National Wildlife Federation's School Yard Habitat which PLP hopes to receive by Earth Day. Receiving this designation will enable PLP to work towards being an Eco-School which opens the door for more grants.
- A motion was made by Twan Ellison to approve meeting minutes from December. Chris Perri seconds the motions. Unanimous approval; motion passes.
- No visitors were present for Open Session.
- Gloria Miller spoke concerning Explorations. She highlighted an exploration on Etiquette and Manners.
- Gloria Miller spoke concerning the reading program used at the Lower School. She spoke about the three components: phonics, reading books, and comprehension.
- Gloria Miller spoke concerning the writing assessment. She is using the 6 trait writing assessment program to have a standard format for writing.
- Gloria Miller spoke concerning the offer for us to be a training/implementation site for Scholastic's writing program. Focus will be on grades 3-5 with an emphasis on grade 4. There are only 5 schools in the United States chosen.
 - Cara Jones asked about implementation in the Middle School. Gloria indicated it is book two that will be published in the spring.
- Kate Alice Dunaway attended the Western meeting of the NC Charter Schools Alliance. Senator Eddie Goodall has accepted the position of Leader of NC Alliance. Twenty-five other Charter Schools were represented. We are currently members and there will be a mini-conference in July 11-13 in Raleigh.
 - Chris Perri and Anne McIntosh asked how Eddie Goodall was being paid. Kate Alice explained that the funds were coming from dues and private donations.

- Chris Perri asked the amount of dues. Kate Alice explained we paid \$1500.
 - John Moloney asked if Race to the Top was discussed at meeting. Kate Alice spoke concerning that those at the meeting did not feel that North Carolina would stand much chance of getting money from the federal program. Jennifer Gnann commented that on the North Carolina application for Race to the Top, charter schools was not an option.
- Kate Alice gave Head of School update. She accepted questions from Board of Directors.
 - Anne McIntosh asked about the retention concerns Kate Alice highlighted in her Head of School Report; Anne asked if we had lost any APs. Kate Alice spoke concerning conversations from Heads of School about possible movement. Letters of Intent will get mailed with paychecks on January 28, 2010 for confirmation from all Academic Partners.
 - Chris Perri asked for confirmation of campus wide meetings. Kate Alice spoke about the AP meeting scheduled each month.
 - Chris Perri asked for an update on the Inforum. Kate Alice stated about 100 attended. Her goal is to have Inforums 4 times a year. The attendance was mainly Lower School families but all schools were represented.
- Kate Alice highlighted three other items.
 - Kate Alice and Chris Scholl visited the First team and heard former astronaut and Davidson Graduate speak with US students.
 - Discovery Place will be on site on Tuesday to visit the Robotics team and campus.
 - Kate Alice encourages all board members to read the January 2010 issue of US News and World Report and the information on Charter Schools. Two NC schools made the top 100 schools in the country; one was a charter school.
- Chris Perri asks Molly Manning for clarification on the recent lottery and upcoming lottery. Seventy-one Kindergartners are already enrolled before public lottery. Returning intentions have not been sent out yet for current students. Thirty-three siblings in Grades 6-11 will be offered enrollment. We received 1234 applications for the public lottery.
- Chris Perri spoke to the Board about increasing enrollment from 1440 to 1550. Bill Neal questioned the space limitation. Bill Neal asked Chris Perri if we have space on campus for Modules. Anne McIntosh inquired as to whether PLP would “stagger” the day; for example, Period 1-6 and then Period 2-7 as a way to open up additional classroom space since we are already maxed out. Kate Alice shared that they were examining a staggered day but no final details have been decided.
- Kate Alice shares 40,000 students in North Carolina enrolled in charter schools; 15,000 on wait lists across the state.
- John Moloney speaks about a vote concerning the unencumbered cash for ACC. In the December meeting the board voted for money to be set aside for campus purchase. Kevin Shannon, Capital Campaign Chair, questioned why that money is not being set aside for ACC which is number 1 on the priority list.
- Bill Neal questions why finance not on the board’s monthly agenda. He questions why PLPalooza financial information was not received. Discussion ensues. Bill requests an itemized list of all

expenditures from the PLPalooza event. He and other board members would like to see proof that the event was paid for by money raised by the steering committee and received, not pledged. Anne mentions that Tom Williams, when he was at the October, 2009 board meeting, said he would get this information to the Board.

- Chris Perri states the vote on ACC cash should be tabled until June 2010.
- Bill Neal also stated that he would like to speak to Kevin Shannon concerning the confusion between what is in the bank vs. debt. That is, the \$400,000 surplus is actually a misnomer when the loans and equity line that PLP has is taken into consideration.
- Anne McIntosh mentions that although ACC is priority, a promise in the form of a written agreement was given to Beacon Partners to pay off the campus in a reasonable time frame as well. Anne also mentions that as long as Beacon Partners owns the PLP campus, the taxes on the campus must be paid out of PLP's operating budget. As we add buildings, the tax liabilities will only increase. Our taxes will be approximately \$300,000 and will increase when the new \$3.5 million ACC is built. PLP is a 501(c)3 organization but Beacon Partners is not and they are the owners but the lease agreement we have with them states that the taxes are the responsibility of the school.
- Bill Neal expresses a concern that we need to be cautious because PLP is a new school that needs to prove itself and model appropriate responsibility for managing taxpayer funds.
- John Moloney spoke about the ability to use state funds to build property.
- Twan Ellison would like for the Board Members to work on scenario planning for financial issues so that they all are on the same page, noting that the issue comes up at nearly every board meeting with no apparent progress forward; Twan suggests this issue be put on the February board retreat when more time can be dedicated to discussing and investigating various perspectives.
- Kate Alice spoke about her responsibilities to operate a clean budget. She struggles with her valued input in the budget with the Board. She feels there is lack of a Board agreement on budget items. We should be looking at other models, outside the state of NC, for ideas.
- John Moloney suggests a time to get ideas and thoughts to Bill so that he can organize for the Board retreat.
- Bill requests copies as soon as possible on the itemized budget each month.
- Kate Alice distributes a memo from Kevin Shannon (Capital Campaign Steering Committee) and Brad Garrett (Kaleidoscope Foundation) regarding PLPalooza and other campaign expenses.
- Anne McIntosh asks for complete agenda for the Board Retreat in February. John states that the agenda is ever changing due to priorities changing.
- School Policy Development. John proposes that the next board meeting a vote is held on executive limitations. John asks Twan Ellison to lead next section. Group decided to vote at retreat. Group decided to vote on the Executive Limitations quadrant at the Feb board retreat.
- Cara Jones gave an update on survey information stating that she had met with Kate Alice. Chris P wanted to make certain we did not tweak the items too much; otherwise, we would not be able to benchmark ourselves against other schools in the nation. Anne said she would like to review the survey questions prior to execution; John asked that everyone get his/her feedback

to Cara via email. The board approved Cara getting surveys ready. Surveys will go out first week in March to the PLP families.

- Chris Perri passes out reflections on revisions of by-laws for school board; discussion ensues. Chris and Kate Alice will go to Bill Pope to look over changes and to get clarification on changing how many families need to be present to make changes. The Board cannot approve these bylaw changes until hearing back from our legal counsel.

Meeting is adjourned.