

ENTERPRISE CHARTER SCHOOL
Minutes: Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
March 11th, 2013 5:30 PM 275 Oak Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

Trustees Present: Dr. David Cantaffa; Rachael Martin; Richard Morrisroe, Chairman; Michelle Williams, and Lyle Wallace.

Trustees Excused: David Stieglitz

Liaisons Present: Kristine Graham and Linda Morgan.

Staff Present: Heather Lyon, CAO; Jill Norton, CEO; Stanley Simmons, Dean of Students

Other Staff Present: Kevin von der Empten, Lisa Yonkosky, Nancy Krug, Kristy Witkowski

Visitors Present: Jesse Baldwin, Damon & Morey; Stacey Moar, Damon & Morey; Orlando Perez, Final Candidate for Board of Trustees

I. Opening Items

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Richard Morrisroe, Chairman, at 5:40 PM with a quorum of 5 present.

Public Notice was confirmed.

The minutes of the 2/11/2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees were approved as amended, on a motion by Dr. Cantaffa, second by Mr. Wallace, with all in favor and no abstentions.

II. Director's Report: Jill Norton

Renewal Status Report:

Ms. Norton stated that on Tuesday, March 5th, she was informed by the Buffalo Board of Education that there was an Emergency Board Meeting taking place for Enterprise Charter School. The previous unanimous 3 year renewal vote was possibly being withdrawn and a revote was to take place. The meeting did occur on March 6th and the Buffalo Board of Trustees voted for a 2 year renewal with a backup decision for 1 year if the two years was not accepted by the state. There appeared to be a sense of urgency relative to taking this action to get the item on the Board of Regents agenda for Monday, March 11th. That did not occur as we were not on the March 11th Board of Regents agenda. We have no other news after that. A copy of the vote was requested by Ms. Norton.

We are awaiting information on the status of the renewal from the state for the clarification as to when we will be on the agenda for the Board of Regents for the revised recommendation. Dr. Cantaffa questioned whether we should contact Regent Bennett for a question/answer conversation. Ms. Norton stated the Board of Regents does have a final say in the renewal process, although Bill Clark, the new Charter Schools representative said that the Buffalo Board of Education is our authorizer and we should be going to them for answers.

The North East Charter School Network (NECSN) is currently seeking answers regarding the new framework. How will they handle discrepancies for schools that are designated a school in good standing and then have issues with renewal?

Monthly Update – Jill Norton

Ms. Norton reported that a review took place with the Fitch Rating Company. We had been rated BBB but are now rated BBB- due to our academic performance. Of the 18 schools being revisited for their rating, we were 1 of 4 that maintained an investment grade rating.

III. Financial Report: Mr. Wallace

The January 2013 Financials were reviewed by the Finance Committee and Mr. Wallace reported there was nothing material noted, there are some timing differences. Junior Achievement's rent is being renegotiated for the upcoming year. Mrs. Kirisits, from our Accounting Firm, is always available should there be any further questions. A motion was made by Dr. Cantaffa to approve the January 2013 Financial Report and seconded by Mr. Wallace, with all in favor and no abstentions.

The Finance Committee also reviewed bids for the roof replacement on Building B & C. Sahlems Roofing and Siding was recommended for the award due to the price and the fact that they have worked on the ECIDA building in the past. A question arose regarding the large difference in pricing. Mr. von der Empten, Custodian, stated Sahlems is a family owned business and therefore they don't need to meet a union prevailing wage. Mr. von der Empten stated he also spoke with ECIDA regarding this company as they did work on their roof and it was noted that there was a large difference in pricing on their bids as well with Sahlems as the winning bidder. It was also noted that there may be additional charges due to unknown circumstances when the roof replacement begins. On a motion by Dr. Cantaffa, seconded by Ms. Martin, Sahlems Roofing and Siding was awarded the bid for the roof replacement for Building B & C in the amount of \$123,820.00.

The Finance Committee also reviewed bids for the replacement of Carpeting in five classrooms in the building. A history of the rugs was provided. Carpet tiles are being suggested as they are much easier to maintain. Allasen Carpets was recommended. Allied Floor was \$100 cheaper but their bid was not complete. On a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Wallace, Allasen Carpet was awarded the Carpet Replacement Project in the amount of \$14,850.00

IV. Academic Excellence Report: Heather Lyon

Dr. Lyon updated the Board of Trustees on the upcoming Test Prep Family Fun Night on March 27th from 5:15 to 7:15 PM and invited all board members to attend. Dinner will be served from 6:45 to 7:15 PM.

Dr. Lyon also reviewed the information previously presented to the Academic Committee for the Data Analysis, Grant Updates, and Report Card and Awards Pep Rally. It was noted that the February 14th Pep Rally was an intervention for student motivation. Students were rewarded for behavior, academics, attainment and growth. Many awards were issued yet the data for students who are reading at or above grade level is only at 22%. This is a problem and there are many conversations underway regarding this data and gaps that need to be closed. She provided additional information for the Rtl program at Enterprise and the feedback from Jim Wright, the RTI Consultation and Training consultant's follow up visit. Jenn Borgioli, from Learner Centered Initiatives, created 3 videos for Test Prep without Corruption – all teachers were required to view and respond to the videos. Dr. Lyon also reviewed the types of supports that are available; noting the type of support will depend on funding. Ms. Norton stated that the assembly proposal for the budget cuts charter funding. We will be watching this, as well as Title I and IDEA funding.

Dr. Lyon is now performing unannounced observations. Ten have been completed with 25 more that need to be done.

Dr. Lyon stated that the Kindergarten teachers are now using reading levels for their students (this was not done in the past). Our students should be at a C or D level, but would like to see all students in that grade at an E level. Some students are already at an E or F level. The work and use of data taking place in the Kindergarten classrooms is great.

Dr. Lyon also stated that the Buffalo Board of Education, at the March 6th meeting, had many compliments for Enterprise Charter School.

V. Dean of Students: Stanley Simmons

Mr. Simmons provided the suspension data for February noting there were no formal suspensions. Formal suspensions are down this year but students continue to struggle with social interactions. Substitute teachers are going much smoother due to additional training in-house and the sub pool is more consistent. We also now have four lunch monitors who are working out great.

Dr. Cantaffa noted that the new PBIS system needs to support a culture of learning, not just a tool for behavior and requested a year-end report comparing last year and the stats for PBIS for this year. Mr. Simmons explained that the PBIS system takes 3-5 years to be successful.

VI. Committee Reports: Academic Committee: Dr. Cantaffa

Dr. Cantaffa explained the Academic Committee meetings have been moved to the 1st Monday of the month just before the board meetings to provide up-to-date information

for the board meetings. Dr. Cantaffa observed Dr. Lyon, followed by a conference with Dr. Lyon and a report to Mr. Morrisroe and Ms. Norton. He also noted that Dr. Ceprano, the Buffalo State Professor who holds classes and works in close contact with teachers in our building, wrote a letter to Dr. Lyon congratulating her and our staff on the changes made to our academics here at Enterprise Charter School and the progress we will see from those changes.

Executive Committee –Richard Morrisroe

Mr. Morrisroe stated that difficult decisions are underway as the board must backtrack for the renewal issues. The committee is still discussing the terms of the charter renewal. The Buffalo Board of Education did not attach any strings to our renewal so the ECS board can now start to examine the options. It was noted the level of attainment that is expected is serious and employees must realize this.

Mr. Morrisroe also introduced Mr. Orlando Perez as a candidate for the Board of Trustees to replace Ms. Pamela King who recently resigned.

The Enterprise Charter School Board of Trustees voted to select Orlando Perez as the final candidate to the BoT, with a term expiring on 7/1/2014, pending approval by the Buffalo Board of Education. The resolution approving Orlando Perez is formerly adopted upon BOE's approval. With a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Williams, with all in favor and no abstentions, Mr. Perez was nominated as a final candidate for the vacant Board of Trustee position.

Finance Committee: Lyle Wallace

Mr. Wallace also reported that the draft budget for next year is underway, with challenges being discussed as well as the needs of Enterprise Charter School's students.

HR/Personnel Committee-Richard Morrisroe

Mr. Morrisroe indicated that the logistics for a complete reapplication process would be a nightmare. ECS needs to build on the good aspects and prune the bad. There are various models being discussed for a more intensive review of staff. Ms. Graham questioned a goal date for the plan. The board realizes the urgency and stated they are still reviewing the options with the attorneys.

VII. Other Business:

ECS has hired a new Physical Education teacher, Lindsay Mathais.
The Social Work position has been posted again.

The enrollment report was reviewed by Ms. Norton noting that we have 5 vacancies but have students in line for many of those positions. It was also noted that we do not bring in new students after April 1st due to the lateness in the year.
There was no public comment.

A motion was made at 7:30 PM by Mr. Morrisroe, seconded by Dr. Cantaffa to go into Executive Session to discuss legal options for renewal and the HR plan for renewal. At 8:40 PM, a motion was made by D. Cantaffa, seconded by Ms. Martin to end Executive Session.

A motion was made to authorize legal counsel to file an Article 78 and a restraining order blocking the decision by the Buffalo Board of Education to change the original vote by Dr. Cantaffa, seconded by Ms. Martin, with all in favor and no abstentions was carried.

A motion was made to continue to use the evaluation process, not a mass layoff for the upcoming school year was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wallace with 5:1 vote the motion was carried.

VIII. Closing Items

On a motion by Mr. Morrisroe, second by Ms. Martin, with all in favor and no abstentions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

I, Rachel Martin, Secretary of Enterprise Charter School Board of Trustees, was present at a meeting held 3/11/2013. I verify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and that the board has approved them for publication.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Martin, Board of Trustees