

NYOS GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
November 13, 2008

The NYOS Governing Council called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Those present were: Bill Pfaff, Craig Shempert, Michael Kamen, Susana Hildebrand, Tamara Golden, Robert Brenner and Tiate Carson. Guests were Teresa Elliott, Terry Berkenhoff and Julie Atchley.

Ms. Hildebrand asked for approval of minutes from past meetings. Michael Kamen made a motion to table approval on minutes from 7/31, 8/21, and 8/31 until next meeting, with Bill Pfaff seconding the motion. The motion carried.

The minutes from October 16th were discussed. Matt Lasater made the motion to accept the October 16th minutes with corrections. Bill Pfaff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Susana Hildebrand welcomed the newest board member, Matt Lasater, to his first meeting.

Ms. Hildebrand called for the committee reports.

PVC: Teresa Elliot announced the success of the Fall Fest. She reported that it made over \$5,900. Matt Lasater stated that this was approximately 10% growth from last year's event. Everyone agreed the McCullough location was ideal for the yearly event.

Public Input:

Ms. Hildebrand made a statement regarding public input. She said that the board gives individuals the opportunity to speak at each board meeting. However, the board cannot take action on any input issue; they can only listen to the individual. If action is required, the issue must be given to Ms. Elliott to put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Ms. Hildebrand stressed that personnel issues will not be discussed at the public input session. This must be discussed in executive session.

Financial Report:

The finance department has designed a new format to present their report to the Governing Council. The first page is a general look at each item, with supporting documentation on each account attached to the report. It is felt that this will help clarify each account to the board.

Teresa Elliott stated that Food Service has purchased new software and will need to go back and enter revenue and expenditures from August and September, which will bring their accounts up to date.

Selections of Financial Auditor:

Teresa Elliott recommended the John Pechacek as the Financial Auditor for NYOS to the Governing Council. The cost will be approximately \$6,800 for the audit. Robert Brenner asked that the late clause be a stipulation in this agreement. Mr. Brenner made a motion to accept John

Pechacek as the Financial Auditor for NYOS Charter School with the stipulation that he is penalized if the audit comes in late. Michael Kamen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IBM:

Craig Shempert stated that IBM offers several programs to its employees to help communities with grant incentives to encourage volunteers. One such program is "On Demand Community". This grant is either \$3,500 of IBM technology or \$1,000 cash to the school. Teresa Elliott thought that NYOS could use the \$3,500 in technology more. Since then, NYOS has received a stand alone server and new software.

Craig stated that there is another grant being offered worth \$7500. It requires 3 IBM employees volunteer at least 40 hours in 5 months, after then, it will reward the school \$7500. Craig is trying to see how many parents are IBM employees to see if NYOS could satisfy the grant requirements.

Teresa Elliott stated that she is working on a grant that is part of a Teacher Merit Base pay system. It awards \$21,500 for the first year. Julie Atchley, Terry Berkenhoff and Ms. Elliott will be looking at this grant to see if this is something that NYOS would benefit from.

NYOS qualified for the Perkins grant, which awards \$2,535 for high school technology. NYOS will purchase digital projectors with the funds.

Ms. Elliott announced that a new scholarship has been set up for NYOS seniors. Mr. Al-Tabatabaie and the Dell Foundation donated \$10,000 for a scholarship program to be set up in honor of his wife. A committee will be formed to set up guidelines for the grant disbursement to seniors.

In addition to the scholarship donation, Mr. Al-Tabatabaie donated 5 new lap top computers to the McCullough campus.

Special Education Co-operative Contract:

Teresa Elliott presented a new Special Education Co-Operative Contract for the board to approve. She stated that anytime a change is made in the co-operative, a new contract must be approved. Star Charter School and McCullough Academy of Excellence will no longer be a part of the co-op.

Craig Shempert made the motion to accept and sign the Special Education Co-Operative agreement. Robert Brenner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Playground Development Funds:

Teresa Elliott stated that NYOS has \$11,783 in reserve for playground development. Robert Brenner started the discussion with how the funds were going to be disbursed between the two campuses.

It was decided that a playground committee would be set up and charged with bringing back a proposal for the next meeting. They will need to look at a new playscape for the McCullough campus and a new play area for the Lamar campus and be prepared to show costs of each program.

Finance Committee:

Robert Brenner announced that Matt Lasater was now the new chairperson of this committee. Mr. Lasater reported that the committee is looking at the Title funds II and IV, and how they are to be divided among the campuses/grade levels. He stated that the division of the funds should be linked proportionately to the campuses that generated them. Since Title I funds are generated solely by the McCullough campus, those funds will go to them. Title II and IV funds can be distributed to both campuses, since they are generated by the Child Nutrition Program, but will be distributed proportionately by how they were earned. The bulk of the funds will go to the elementary campuses, with secondary getting a small portion.

Title II funds can be used for Highly Qualified Teachers, Teacher Retention, and Title IV funds can be used for Safe and Drug Free School programs.

Matt Lasater made the motion to accept the Finance Committees recommendation for use of Title II and IV funds. For the 2007-08 school year the funds will be split 83% elementary, and 17% high school. Michael Kamen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Communications Committee:

Craig Shempert reported the committee had made a list of items at their last meeting to be implemented. Cindy Walter is drafting a communication policy. Jo Shempert is drafting a mechanism on how things will be communicated. Teresa Elliott shared that the council needs to revisit the messaging platform to add the multicultural issue and that the website pages are fully delegated to building content. There are approximately 130 total pages on the website. The teachers' pages are under way, with a good number up and going already.

Susana Hildebrand asked about the progress of e-mail addresses for all board members. At this date she still has not had one assigned to her. She stated that she would like this to be put into place for the NYOS Community to have a line of communication with the board as early as possible.

Election Committee:

Teresa Elliott stated that the ballots were processed without a full election committee. The committee is responsible for making sure that the ballots are secure and accessible, as well as maintains the integrity of the vote by securing the ballots and counting them when the poll closes. In the absence of a full election committee, the votes from the last elections were secured, counted, and sealed by Terry Berkenhoff, Teresa Elliott, and Craig Shempert.

Student Growth and Recruitment Committees:

The discussion was tabled until next meeting as the chairpersons were not present.

Multicultural Committee:

Michael Kamen reported that the committee had met earlier this week. He stated that he was a little frustrated that the committee was moving slowly and more has not been accomplished. He had hoped that there was more progress to report, and felt like the administration and teachers needed to take the lead in developing this curriculum. He reported that a Multicultural in-service has been set up for the staff on November 16th.

Mr. Kamen suggested that he would like to visit some schools that have a successful program in place, like New York, for example.

Mrs. Elliott stated some of the frustration that Administrators and teachers are experiencing could be due to a wide disparity among all as to where NYOS is with this issue. Teresa feels like NYOS needs to begin with a common vision and then build on it.

BOND CONSTRUCTION AND OVERSIGHT:

Julian Morell stated that as soon as he knows the numbers, he'll look at how space will need to be utilized and will be able to make a more comprehensive report.

Mr. Brenner asked if there was anyway that he could present a timeline for construction and growth.

Ms. Elliott stated that every committee is interlinked with each other. In order for Mr. Morell to make his presentation, he needs the growth predictions for next year.

TECHNOLOGY:

Mrs. Elliott stated the McCullough campus still does not have student computers, as well as the Lamar campus could use more. She suggested a committee to head this up. Craig Shempert volunteered to head this.

Bill Pfaff was concerned that the board members were chairing the majority of the committees and being stretched thin. He suggested having more of the faculty involved in both chairing and becoming members.

Teresa Elliott stated she knew a couple of people that have expressed interest in being on the Playground committee. She said that she would find a chairperson for this committee and report back next meeting.

Michael Kamen made a motion to create Playground and Technology committees. Robert Brenner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Teresa Elliott stated that all board members are required to have 12 hours of training and returning members 6 hours per school year. Mrs. Elliott stated that the board can schedule an area of interest/focus for their training.

The board decided on two-Saturday training sessions of 6 hours each. This must be completed by June 8, 2008. They will bring their calendars to the next meeting to determine the dates of the train.

Susana Hildebrand stated that the next regular board meeting will be on December 11th. She asked if there was any other business for the board. Ms. Hildebrand asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. Michael Kamen made the motion, with Robert Brenner seconding the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Stapleton