

Twin Cities International Elementary School

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, January 8, 2011, at 10:42 am, at the International Education Center, 277 12th Avenue North, Room 120, Minneapolis, MN, 55401.

Board Members Present: Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed, Ms. Kristin Kjolsing, Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, Ms. Jessica Wroblewski, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim, Mr. Ibrahim Aden, Ms. Wesam Shaker and Mr. Osman Mohamed.

Absent: Ms. Christena Pulver.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dr. Randal Eckart, Director Twin Cities International Elementary School. Authorizer representative Dr. Jim Gross of Century College. Mohamed Egeh, Business Manager for Twin Cities International Elementary School.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Authorizer representative, Mr. Tom Black.

Also Present: Board Clerk Ms. Bethany Forsberg, Mr. Ali Muse and Mr. Abdullah

1.0 Open Meeting

Chair opened the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Chair acknowledged those present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2.0 Approve Agenda

Time was given to review the agenda for the meeting.
Four corrections were noted.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski made a motion to approve the agenda with the corrections as noted.
Ms. Kristin Kjolsing seconded.
Motion Carried.

3.0 Minutes from the previous meeting of November 13, 2010

Time was given to review the minutes from the meeting held on November 13, 2010.

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.
Ms. Jessica Wroblewski seconded.
Motion carried.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

4.1 November 2010/December 2010 Year to Date Report

Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that at the end of the fiscal school year, TIES' total revenue was \$2,099,716 while tracking at 32%. Total expenditure is \$3,063,416 while tracking at 45%. This is a 5% decrease than the targeted total expenditure tracking amount of 50%.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh remarked that TIES ended the fiscal year in good financial standing even with the increase in the state's holdback amount from 27% to 30% due to the \$2,000,000 fund reserve.

Mr. Egeh noted that TIES should begin saving money for a possible building restructure when the current lease is up in 2015.

Mr. Egeh stated that a revised budget will be presented to the board during the meeting held in February 2011.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski moved to accept the November/December 2010 year to date report.

Mr. Ibrahim seconded.

Motion carried.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Charter School Authorizer Remarks

Dr. Jim Gross reported that Century College has set enrollment records for the last two years.

Due to the increase in student enrollment, the college is currently undergoing a remodeling project that will allow more classroom space.

Dr. Gross discussed Century College's hopes in creating a partnership with Excel Energy to be a part of their program called Achieving the Dream. This program focuses on student success with regard to student retention and degree completion.

5.2 Director's Report

Dr. Eckart reported:

5.2.0 Family Night

Family Night was held on December 1st and 2nd, 2010. Parent attendance was high with a 75%-80% turnout rate. Parents who were unable to attend were contacted by teachers via phone to discuss student achievement.

5.2.1 Student Attendance

As of January 7, 2011, 588 students were enrolled at TIES which is an increase from the projected enrollment of 570.

5.2.2 After School Program

The after school program held on Tuesdays and Thursdays is beginning to lose student enrollment due to weather and busing. Large amounts of snowfall have made it difficult for buses to drive through city and neighborhood streets causing students to get home later than expected. Because of this, the program is being

postponed until January 18, 2011. If conditions do not improve by the designated time, it will be postponed for another two weeks.

Dr. Eckart noted that the after school program is highly valued by staff and parents in the community. In order to increase the amount of student and teacher contact time but allow students to get home at a reasonable hour, he and Mr. Abdirashid have discussed a possible lengthened school day for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. This will allow every student to receive specific services to meet their individual needs, as well as decrease the amount of money the school spends on busing.

Dr. Eckart and Mr. Abdirashid are in contact with TIES' bus company to see if they could accommodate a longer school day schedule and will update the board as information on the topic becomes available.

Ms. Wesam Shaker stated that she agreed with a longer school day because she believes that it will increase student scores and success in all areas.

5.2.3 Fall NWEA Reading and Math Tests

NWEA fall testing occurred during the month of November this year in 1st through 4th grade.

TIES' goal for student achievement in reading is to be at 70% by the spring of 2011.

Currently, each grade's student achievement percentage for reading is as follows:

- 1st grade – 66%
- 2nd grade – 61%
- 3rd grade – 58%
- 4th grade – 58%

TIES' goal for student achievement in math is to be at 80% by the spring of 2011.

Currently, each grade's student achievement percentage for math is as follows:

- 1st grade – 65%
- 2nd grade – 70%
- 3rd grade – 71%
- 4th grade – 67%

Dr. Eckart stated that if we achieve these goals, TIES will be in compliance with AYP guidelines.

Dr. Eckart noted that the Old Country Buffet outing for students who met their goals during the fall NWEA testing was well received by parents and students. Students will be given a new incentive to work towards if they meet their goals during the spring 2011 testing.

Dr. Eckart gave each board member a copy of the Auditor's Report to read and review. Questions or comments can be presented to the board at the next meeting held in February.

6.0 Discussion

6.1 Update Board Goals 2009-2010

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing and Ms. Jessica Wroblewski noted that school board training for all required members will be added to the updated board goals.

The rest of the board goals will be updated at the next meeting held in February 2011 when Ms. Christena Pulver, the board secretary, is present.

6.2 Policy Committee

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing noted that there are seven policies up for review today.

These include:

413-Harrasment and Violence Policy (1st reading)

531-The Pledge of Allegiance Policy (1st reading)

532-Use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove students with IEPs from school grounds. (1st reading)

406-Public and Private Personnel Data (2nd reading)

410-Family and Medical Leave Policy (2nd reading)

502-Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person (2nd reading)

533-Wellness Policy (3rd reading)

Ms. Kjolsing stated that the board can expect to review 3-4 policies for a first, second, and third reading every month. By doing this, she and Ms. Jessica Wroblewski can ensure that all 33 policies will be reviewed and updated by the end of the school year.

6.2.0 Wellness Policy (3rd reading)

Ms. Kjolsing stated that the only clarification made to the 533-Wellness Policy was who would serve as TIES' Wellness Committee. It was decided during the board meeting held in December that the board will be responsible for fulfilling this position for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

Board members will read policies 406, 410, and 502 before the next meeting held in February so revisions can be made and the policies can be finalized at that time.

Mr. Abdirashid made a motion to approve the 533-Wellness Policy.

Mr. Abdisamad seconded.

Motion carried.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Increase Student Contact Days

Dr. Eckart proposed that TIES increase the number of student contact days for the 2011-2012 school year from 172 to 176.

Dr. Eckart and Mr. Abdirashid believe that increasing the number of student contact days will lead to increases in student achievement and success.

Ms. Kjolsing made a motion to accept the approval of adding four days to the 2011-2012 school year calendar.

Mr. Abdisamad seconded.

Motion carried.

7.2 Move February Board Meeting Date

Dr. Eckart noted that the next board meeting is scheduled to take place on February 12th, 2011.

Due to the 10 year anniversary celebration being held on the same day, Dr. Eckart proposed that the meeting should be moved to February 5th.

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing made a motion to approve the new school board meeting date of February 5th, 2011.

Mr. Osman seconded.

Motion carried.

Mr. Abdirashid noted that the 10 year anniversary celebration is taking place to highlight the accomplishments of TIES, MIMS, and Ubah Medical Academy.

Dinner will be served and guest speakers will be present.

All staff, parents, and their spouses are invited to the event.

8.0 Old Business.

8.1 Reassign Calendar Committee

Board discussed the upcoming calendar committee for the 2011-2012 school year and decided that it will include TIES' assistant directors as well as Ms. Kristin Kjolsing and Mr. Ibrahim Aden.

Mr. Abdirashid made a motion to approve the calendar committee for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ms. Wroblewski seconded.

Motion carried.

8.2 Update on Authorizer Search Status

Dr. Eckart stated that St. Thomas University was approved for authorizer status.

All three directors met from TIES, MIMS, and Ubah Medical Academy to request an authorizer/sponsor application from St. Thomas. Once the document arrives, it will be completed and sent back to St. Thomas to wait for their approval.

9.0 Adjournment.

Ms. Kjolsing moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 pm.

Mr. Abdirashid seconded.

Motion carried.