

**Twin Cities International Elementary School
School Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 10:30am, at
the International Education Center, 277 12th Ave. N, Room #120, Minneapolis, MN, 55401**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed, Secretary Ms. Bethany Forsberg, Treasurer Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, Teacher Representative Member Ms. Christena Ulvin, Teacher Representative Member Ms. Marian Aden, Teacher Representative Member Ms. Wesam Shaker and Community Representative Member Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim.

ABSENT: Teacher Representative Member Mr. Ibrahim Aden and Community Representative Member Mr. Osman Mohamed

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Randal Eckart, Director of Twin Cities International Elementary School. Authorizer Representatives Mr. George Lillquist and Mr. Tom Henderlite.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Abdirizak Hassan and Ms. Patti Kronk.

1.0 Welcome and Member Contact Detail Confirmation

Chair opened the meeting at 10:35a.m. The Chair acknowledged a quorum was present, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2.0 Approve Agenda

Ms. Bethany motioned for the Agenda to be approved with the following corrections; Mr. Osman Mohamed noted as “Teacher Representative Member” should be “Community Representative Member”, as well as “Mr. Fred Bartling” should be “Dr. Fred Bartling. The following changes to #3 “Review Minutes from Previous Meetings” – a. December 10, 2011, and b. December 21, 2011. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

3.0 Minutes from the previous regular Board Meeting held on December 10, 2011 and December 21, 2011.

Ms. Christena motioned for the board meeting minutes from December 10, 2011 and December 21, 2011 be approved with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded to endorse the meeting minutes of December 10, 2011 and December 21, 2011 and the motion carried.

4.0 Treasurer’s Report (10 min).

a. **July, 2011-December, 2011** (Distributed)

The Chair welcomed Mr. Abdirizak Hassan to present the Treasurer’s Report.

Mr. Abdirizak reviewed each line item in detail. He noted that the total revenue and expenditures by program were below the projected budget of 50% other than Site, Building & Equipment which was 2% above the projected amount. He stated that the year to date revenue is \$2,239,929 while tracking at 34%. This amount is 16% less than the projected budget. The year to date expenditures is \$2,980,387 while tracking at 44%, which is 6% below the projected amount. Mr. Abdirizak stated that the fund balance is tracking at 33% with a current holding of \$2, 222,357. The finance committee is dedicated to working together to resolve issues with regard to funds.

Ms. Christena motioned that the Treasurer's Report be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

5.0 New Business:

5.1 Authorizer's Report

Mr. George, Concordia University Authorizer Representative Reported:

- a. Discussed his visit in December, stating he was incredibly impressed with the teachers and all around excellent teaching.
- b. Apologized for missing the Special Board Meeting December 21, 2011 as he was out of town. He will be present for the March 10, 2012 Board Meeting. If there is an emergency, he can be emailed for immediate action.
- c. Requested reviewing of Twin Cities International Elementary Schools goals again during the March Board Meeting.
- d. Mr. George discussed having data that drives decisions and would like staff, student and parent surveys distributed. Mr. Tom will bring samples of surveys to the February Board Meeting.

5.2 Director's Report

Dr. Eckart reported:

- a. After School Program will resume Tuesday, January 24, 2012.
- b. MCA math testing begins February 6, 2012 for 3rd and 4th grades. Parent meeting is taking place regarding the testing Saturday, January 21, 2012 as we meet. Students will have 3 chances to take the test. The meeting will discuss the options of testing students 3 times per year versus 1 time per year, allowing students to meet AYP sooner.
- c. Parent/Teacher Conferences were successful. 83% of the parents attended and 12% called in for status, equaling a 95% turnout rate.
- d. Line of Credit Application will be mailed the week of January 23, 2012.

The Chair motioned that the Director's Report be received. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

Discussion

6.1 Board Goals

- a. Ms. Bethany and Ms. Christena discussed being “Teacher Representatives” of the Policy Committee. Dr. Randal to seek counsel regarding “Open Meeting” rules and to verify if this would/would not adhere to school board rules and regulations.
- b. Mr. Abdirizak Hassan and Ms. Marian Aden will provide profiles to Ms. Bethany at the next board meeting.

6.2 403b

Dr. Randal discussed 403B Plan options with regard to the ERISA Law that went into effect in 2009. The ERISA Law states that all employees must be given and receive the employer contribution regardless of part-time status or religious beliefs. After discussions with auditors, Twin Cities International Elementary School has explored options on how to handle this issue.

One option would be to go to court and try to appeal the ERISA Law based on religious grounds. Severe costs and legality issues could arise which has led the administration and finance committee to seek other options.

Another option would be to discontinue the plan completely which is following suit with the school board action taken last year by Minnesota International Middle School. Employees would receive a 4% (one-time) increase to their base salaries which would give them the opportunity to choose how they would like to use the money, including the option of reinvesting it in other retirement accounts. This change would be reflected on the March 15, 2012 payroll.

7.0 Action Items

a. 403B Plan

Mr. Abdirashid motioned to discontinue the 403B Plan with the addition of a (one-time) 4% increase to the base salaries of employees. The motion was seconded, the motion carried.

b. Policies

Ms. Christena discussed policy 531-Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that first the board needs to make a decision regarding whether or not TIES will recite the Pledge of Allegiance. She discussed that if the board chose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, it will need to decide which version will be used and how the recitation will be conducted. On the other hand, if the board chose not to recite the pledge, then it needs to state reasoning for that decision.

Ms. Marian made a motion to have TIES participate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance over the intercom one time a week by the director or the director’s designee. The motion was seconded, the motion carried.

Mr. Abdirashid motioned to recite the 1924-1954 version of the Pledge of Allegiance. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. Christena motioned to have 2nd readings 214, 401, 506, 514 and 531 move to final readings, utilizing the 1924-1954 version of the Pledge of Allegiance and final readings 515, 515F, 709, 709F be adopted. The motion was seconded and the motion carried.

8.0 Old Business

No old business at this time.

9.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Christena motioned that the meeting adjourn; noting the time at 12:23pm. The motion was seconded, the motion carried. The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 11, 2012 at 10:30am (Saturday).