

Twin Cities International Elementary School

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, October 16, 2010, at 10:45 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 and Ms. Christena Pulver.

Absent: Mr. Ibrahim Aden, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim and Ms. Wesam Shaker

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Authorizer representative, Dr. Jim Gross.

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

1.0 Open Meeting

Chair opened the meeting at 10:45 am.

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.

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing moved to approve the agenda.

Ms. Tena Pulver seconded.

Motion Carried.

3.0 Minutes from the previous meeting of September 18, 2010

Time was given to review last month's minutes.

2 corrections were noted.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski moved to accept the minutes from last month with the corrections as noted.

Ms. Tena Pulver seconded.

Motion carried.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that our current enrollment is 589 students as of October 15, 2010. This is a higher number of students than our projected enrollment of 570.

Total revenue to date is \$643,000 with a total expenditure of 23%. This is 2% lower than the projected expenditure of 25%.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh remarked that TIES is 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 projects that TIES' reserve will increase to \$2,400,000 by the end of the 2010-2011 school year. This number will be finalized once the books for the 2009-2010 school year are closed.

Mr. Abdirashid moved to accept the September 2010 year to date report.

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing seconded.

Motion carried.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Charter School Authorizer Remarks

Chair thanked Tom Black, authorizer representative from Century College, for attending the meeting.

Tom Black noted that Dr. Jim Gross sends his apologies for not attending the meeting.

Tom Black reported:

There has been an increase from 60%-68% in student retention at Century College over the last 2 years which is providing better job security for the college's employees.

Century College is now approaching the enrollment of 14,000 students.

Mr. Black discussed the importance of sending a letter to the Department of Education to inform them of Century College's resignation of sponsorship for TIES as of June 30, 2011.

Mr. Black stated that there is no need to discuss loans at this time due to TIES' good financial standing.

5.2 Director's Report

Dr. Eckart reported:

5.2.0 Student Attendance

As of October 15, 2010, 589 students were enrolled at TIES which is an increase from the projected enrollment of 570.

Kindergarten, first grade and second grade have reached student capacity.

Students are still being accepted in third and fourth grade.

5.2.1 Improving Student Achievement:

The administrative team is meeting with the parents of third and fourth grade students that did not pass their MCA reading and math tests during the 2009-2010 school year to discuss progress and possible interventions.

Parents have been receptive to the meetings and are enthusiastic about helping improve their children's test scores.

Dr. Eckart discussed the implementation of an incentive program that is now in place for these students during the 2010-2011 school year.

Students that achieve their MCA math and reading goals this year will be able to celebrate by having dinner at Old Country Buffet with a parent/guardian of their choosing.

The money for this incentive program will come out of the 2010-2011 school year budget.

5.2.2 Fall Assessments

NWEA testing will occur during the first and second week of November this year.

5.2.3 MEA

MEA will occur during Thursday, October 21, 2010 and Friday, October 22, 2010. Teachers and educational assistants are able to attend workshops for relicensure held at the Excel Energy Center in St. Paul or they can work onsite for four hours.

6.0 Discussion

6.1 Update Board Goals 2009-2010

6.1.0 Sponsorship

Mr. Abdirashid stated that University of St. Thomas is reapplying for sponsorship and would like TIES to send a letter to the Minnesota Department of Education to request them for this role.

TIES will continue to seek out potential sponsors as the school year progresses.

The new sponsor of TIES must be willing to sponsor all three schools including TIES, Minnesota International Middle School and Ubah Medical Academy.

6.1.1 All School Banquet

Mr. Abdirashid discussed the possibility of having an all school banquet during the month of February to acknowledge TIES' 10 year anniversary.

Mr. Abdirashid will update the board members at November's board meeting on the projected cost of the banquet and where it will be held.

6.2 Board Training

Mr. Abdirashid stated that the University of St. Thomas tried to have board trainings available on October 7th and 14th of 2010, but both meetings were cancelled.

Due to these cancellations and the increase of board training hours from 3 to 9, Mr. Abdirashid is now in contact with legal council to offer customized board trainings for all three schools at TIES.

Mr. Abdirashid will update board members on the cost of the board trainings and where they will be held at November's board meeting.

6.3 Wellness Policy

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing noted that she and Ms. Jessica Wroblewski have started reviewing the mandated policies so alignment can begin with TIES' current policies.

Ms. Kjolsing would like all 30 policies to be reviewed by the end of the 2010-2011 school year so handbooks can be up to date.

In order to reach this goal, Ms. Kjolsing projected that the board will need to review 4-5 policies each month.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski noted that she and Ms. Kjolsing are working with the Technology Director, Mr. Lucas Bogle, to ensure that all required policies are being posted on the school's website in a timely manner.

7.0 Action Items

No action items at this time.

8.0 Old Business.

No old business at this time.

9.0 Adjournment.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski noted that the date on the October 16, 2010 agenda needed to be changed.

Chair acknowledged the change.

Ms. Jessica Wroblewski moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 pm.

Ms. Kristin Kjolsing seconded.

Motion carried.