

Twin Cities International Elementary School

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, December 12, 2009, 10:37 am, at the International Education Center, 277 12th Avenue North, Room 120, Minneapolis, MN, 55401.

Board Members Present: Chair Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed, Secretary Ms. Mande Rickard; Treasurer Ms. Kristin Kjolsing; Mr. Mohamoud Khalif; Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim; Mr. Abdirashid Warsame; Mr. Ibrahim Aden, and Ms. Wesam Shaker.

Absent: Teacher Ms. Jessica Wroblewski

Ex-Officio Members Present: Authorizer representative Mr. Tom Black of Century College and Mr. Randal Eckart Director of the Minnesota International Elementary School.

Also Present: School Business Manager Mr. Mohamed Egeh, Board Clerk Ms. Tena Pulver and Mr. Abdullah Mohamed

1.0 Open Meeting

The Chair welcomed members, acknowledged apologies from Ms. Wroblewski for her absence from today's meeting, and introduced new board clerk Ms. Tena Pulver.

2.0 Approve Agenda

The Chair moved, and Ms. Rickard seconded that early Kindergarten enrollment policy be added to the meetings agenda under item 6F. The motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Minutes from the previous meeting of November 14, 2009

3.1 Ms. Kjolsing corrected errors to the spelling of her name in the previous month's minutes.

3.2 Corrections were noted to the spelling of Ms. Pakou Vang in the previous month's minutes.

3.3 Ms. Rickard noted that she will correct grammatical errors throughout.

3.4 Ms. Rickard moved, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded, that the Minutes of November 14, 2009, be endorsed. The Motion passed unanimously.

4.0 Financial Report

The Chair welcomed Mr. Mohamed Egeh, business manager, to present the year to date report (and further comments respective to budgetary needs).

4.1 YTD Report, most recent billing statements and accounts information with recommendations as needed.

- 4.1.1 Mr. Mohamed Egeh passed out the YTD vs. Actual budget report from July to November of 2009 noting the typo of July needing to be changed to September regarding the tracking period.
- 4.1.2 Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that the trend is more positive with a tracking of 42% overall.
- 4.1.3 Mr. Abdirashid Warsame noted that student enrollment is at 580. Recently added students help to increase overall budget. Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that the budget allows for a cushion of roughly 20 students.
- 4.1.4 Mr. Black inquired about the 50,000 left in the technology budget and if it would be spent throughout the remainder of the year. Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that the technology budget is distributed across a wide range of departments, some of which are currently over budget and therefore the remainder amount is projected to be spent.
- 4.1.5 Mr. Black asked for clarification in the difference in budget amounts for sound proofing TIES vs. MIMS cafeteria/gymnasiums. MIMS cost was at 8,000 while TIES came in at 12,000. Mr. Mohamed Egeh concluded it was due to size differences.

Mr. Abdirashid Warsame moved, and Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded the motion to accept the financial report. The Motion passed unanimously

5.0 Authorizer's Report

Mr. Black reported:

1. Mr. Jim Grose started at Century College and will attend the next board meeting in January.
2. Mr. Grose toured UBAH earlier this week and plans to visit TIES to meet the directors in the near future.
3. Shared news of upcoming classes focusing on school board training titled "Fundamentals of School Board Membership" specifically for charter schools.
4. Shared current new reports of Charter Schools in the press, stressed the importance and success of TIES having reserved funds in these economic times, and suggested resources of where to look to see what other charter schools across MN are doing.

6.0 Director's Report

Mr. Eckart reported:

1. Success of the Star Scholar Assembly
2. Announced upcoming visit from two Minnesota Vikings Football players for a TIES assembly and Essay Award Contest for 3rd and 4th graders courtesy of Assistant Director Ms. Kelli Wilson's efforts.
3. NWEA Scores are tracking as hoped.
4. Health threat has seemed to pass. Absent students this week were due to the cold weather vs. health concerns.
5. Encouraged board action to plot out various budget scenarios (according to recommendations by School Authorizer and Charter School Association) to make

sure TIES and MIMS are prepared for various future circumstances. Board will set finance meetings to plan such cases.

6. Announced school is in middle of an audit. Audit will be presented in January.

Discussion followed regarding differences in charter schools across MN, the negative light they have been given in the press and how to turn that into positive press for TIES and MIMS. Suggestions were given by Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim to invite the press to TIES/MIMS in the future to see what our schools are doing differently than others.

7.0 Other Reports and Action Items

7.1 Policy Readings

7.1.1 601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

7.1.2 603 Curriculum Development

7.1.3 612-1 Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title I Programs

7.1.4 616 School District System Accountability

The Chair motioned to assign the readings of policies 601, 603, 612-1, and 616 as first readings to next meeting, Ms Kjolsing seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7.1.5 401 Equal Employment Opportunity

7.1.6 214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members

The Chair moved, and Ms. Kjolsing seconded, that the Readings of Policies 401 and 214 be received as second readings. The motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Transfer of School Funds under FDIC Federal Insurance

Mr. Eckart reported:

Due to audit in progress funds need to be collateralized.

7.3 Renewal of CD coded under Public Funds Status to insure collateralization

Mr. Eckart reported:

CD is up for renewal. \$250,000 of \$364,000 has been put in savings at 5% insured under FDIC. \$114,000 in 6 month CD in public funds code collateralized at .35%. \$363,000 at .45% under public funds collateralized. Total is insured under FDIC as required.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh reported:

\$750,000 was moved to Wells Fargo due to financial crisis times. 600-700,000 in payroll and checking are now with the local bank, 1.7 million in total yet gaining no interest due to current rates.

7.4 Board Goals for 2009-2010 Progress Up-Date

Ms. Kjolsing took a second check of who will be attending the upcoming board training.

Ms. Rickard asked for an update of current and new board goals to revise and update her notes. Discussion included:

Old Goals

1. Trainings
2. Curriculum
3. Policies
4. Building Improvements (playgrounds)
5. Sound Proofing the TIES gym

Current Goals:

1. Student Achievement
2. What if planning
3. To keep a watch on old goals
4. Communication- website
5. Food- posting breakfast and lunch menus online and in classrooms
6. Arabic and Technology- plan and goals
7. Gifted and Talented Program

Chair noted that new policy for Arabic is in place (accomplished). Chair also noted progress of current goals through Parent Ed. Committee, Somali guest speaker, Mohamed Osman- the founder of Dugsi Academy. Somali EA presenting on health and nutrition to parents, collaborating and working with Mr. Black- our sponsor and having him present at assemblies.

Discussion followed as to how student achievement goals are currently being met. (Staff development meetings, new ILP plans, online updates, RTI, after school program, common assessments). Discussion also touched on how curriculum is already being adapted for gifted and talented students.

7.5 Kindergarten Early Enrollment

Mr. Eckart presented on the idea of pushing back the cut off date for kindergarten enrollment. Other schools have pushed back the date causing conflict for student transfers to TIES who do not match our current policy.

TIES would need:

1. new policy
2. child assessments/screenings
3. cost/time

The Chair requested more research into the subject: what schools are doing this and how long have they extended their acceptance to.

Ms. Kjolsing and Ms. Rickard volunteered to further research the issue and will present their findings at the January Board meeting.

8.0 Adjournment

Ms. Rickard moved, and Ms. Kjolsing seconded, that the Meeting adjourn at 12:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously.