

TWIN CITIES INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 18th, 2009, 10:30 a.m.

Agenda for School Board Meeting

1. Open Meeting.

Mr. Abdikarim, the Chair, opened the meeting at 10:38 AM. He asked for any comments/changes/additions to be made on the agenda.

2. Approve Agenda.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh, the treasurer, proposes item 5b to be divided into two sublets with the inclusion of a "Discussion of living adjustment for 2009/2010." Motion passed unanimously. Also an observation was made, followed by corrections, on misspelled member names.

3. Review minutes from previous meeting (2 min).

Abdisamad moved a motion to approve the previous minutes. It was unanimously carried.

4. Business Manager Report (15 min).

The treasurer presented the Year-to-Date elementary school budget. He noted that enrollment is about 600 students; budget based on an enrollment of 590 students; and the revised budget for July-March 2009 has 75% benchmark for the 590 student body. The treasurer also shared information on school expenditures on food, lease, technology, insurance, maintenance, etc. Below is a snapshot of the budget.

TOTAL REVENUE (FY 2008-2009):

\$6,959,724

TOTAL YTD REVENUES + EXPENDITURES:

\$5,638,014

FOOD SERVICE REVENUE:

\$285,153

FOOD SERVICE EXPENDITURE:

\$278,693

FOOD SERVICE FUND PROFIT (LOSS):

\$6,460

After treasurer's budget presentation, Abdirashid suggested that other board members be informed about the budget for effective decision-making. Kristin promptly volunteered to show him. Chair refers back to December's passed budget, clearing off Abdirashid's confusion on the budget being approved along benefits. The treasurer then noted that Abdirashid's misunderstanding resulted from the lack of specific line item for benefits. During the discussion, Abdirashid suggested that the sum total of every employee should be highlighted so that reserve money

doesn't run out (500+200=750). Egeh proposes that budget be based on 590, and carry current to next year's budget. The members then move to discussion of cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Among the differing views expressed, there was the view that it was too early to know the exact COLA, but it was not too early to contrast; that perhaps COLA issue could be waited till state legislature made a move; that it could be waited till June 30th for possible assessment (with the Union's move in mind).

Abdirashid pointed out that COLA seemed to be out of way. In response, Egeh noted three factors playing out simultaneously:

- Cost of living affected by inflation
- School employees suggest freezing COLA
- State budget remains up in the air—and premature

Then Abdirashid called on the Board to decide on COLA, and the Chair informed the members that there's a choice to revisit the COLA issue. Kristin suggested to wait, and went against premature decision. But Abdillahi saw no reason to delay, and called on the Board to decide on COLA. Abdirashid then expressed a discomfort about "postponing" the COLA decision. Ibrahim, the new Board Secretary, asked how far COLA could affect the school decision. The elementary school Director responded and took several factors into account:

- ADM affects revenue source
- School's current revenue
- And there's no real way of knowing

Century College representative informed the Board that in his school, wages are frozen, there's no hiring of new staff, and no additional supplied to be bought. He also noted that the college Union has resolved to have wages frozen over the next 2 years. Then a question arose in the form of "Does it hurt to wait?" The Director responded that some districts have frozen while others are resisting. He then suggested that the school might wait about a month to do a contrast. But then Abdirashid asked the possibility of COLA being reduced by 3%, and the effect of such reduction on the contract. Egeh responded that some charter schools chose to freeze while others are "hedging". Abdirashid asked again if the school can use the reserve budget for COLA, noting that such move rested entirely on the board's decision. Chair called upon Egeh to recommend an action. Egeh suggested two possibilities:

- I. Freeze and be done with it, or
- II. Revisit contract in case there's an adjustment

Abdirashid reminded the Board to "decide what's good for the school" and be realistic since COLA could be decreased. At this point, Chair intervenes, and calls for "action conclusion". He motioned contracts to be issued in April and to be revisited without COLA, three members objected to that while three other members seconded the Chair's motion. One member abstained. Because it was a tie,

the Chair objected. Then the Chair read the **motion that the school should issue contract without COLA, and revisit it in June based on STEP-IN-LANE**. The Chair declared that the motion did not carry. Abdirashid motioned that contracts to be issued without COLA with step-in-lane. Three members objected, another three members seconded—with one abstain. The Chair intervened, and seconded.

5. **Treasurer's Report (5 min).**

i. **March 2009 YTD report**

b. **Tentative Budget Approval (2009/2010)**

6. **New Business.**

a. **Sponsors Remarks (10 min).**

A **representative from Century College** briefly discussed contemporary issues at his college including enrollment in the fall, honors class paper presentations, Earth Day and campus clean-up, etc. He noted that Century keeps track of weekly news from legislature on charter schools

b. **Director's Report (10 min)**

The Director thanked EAs, parents, staff, and volunteers for role in MCA exams. He informed the Board of an on-coming reading test for 3rd and 4th graders. He said that the May NWEA and LASS tests are required by the state. He listed ways of keeping the students focused such as giving them treats and involving the parents. He also noted that the assessment is due in the summer. On another note, the **Director** observed that the substitute budgeted is high in the last month and half of the school year (a trend he contributed to the warm climate). He briefed the Board on Food Services Nutrition audit, and that he hired a consultant to with the school's renewal of busing contract. Mohamoud asked the **Director** how the elementary school decides which student goes to summer school. The **Director** responded that the elementary works with people who need some improvement. The **Director** also discussed a current USA Today feature article that erroneously mistook the school with another one in Eden Praire. He said that EPA would take air sample to check for cleanness level.

7. **Discussion**

a. **Filling of Clerk position (1 min).**

The Chair motioned clerk position be filled and assigned to Abdihamid Geyre. The motion passed unanimously. The clerk's main duty is to take minutes during the Board's monthly meetings.

- b. Nomination of School Board Secretary (5 min)
Abdisamad moved a motion, it was seconded and carried. Ibrahim is the new Board Secretary.
- c. Nomination of Policy Committee (5 min)
Chair will remain on the policy committee. This item will be waited and discussed in the next Board meeting (May 16th 2009)

8. Action Items (10 min).

- a. School Board Secretary Position.
Ibrahim is the new secretary.
- b. Nomination of Policy Committee.
To be decided in the next Board meeting in May.
- c. Wellness Committee(5min)
Discussed how the wellness committee is implemented, wellness committee to be identified, and a meeting date to be set. Mande expressed willingness to sit on the wellness committee. The **Director** suggested a meeting date to be set for the wellness committee, and he explained that the role of the wellness committee is to uphold the policy on Food and Nutrition Services as well physical exercise. He also noted that the school nurse-assistant can be on the committee. A tentative meeting was scheduled at 4:30 PM on either Monday or Wednesday, in the week of April 20th.
- d. Teacher / EA Resignation (5 min)
The Board was notified of a resignation of two teachers and one educational assistant. A replacement will be hired.

9. Old Business.

Pass action on motion Action Items A, C, and D. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment.

The annual meeting will be on Saturday, June 6th 2009. The Chair approved the motion to adjourn meeting. Next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 AM, Saturday May 16th 2009. The meeting ended at 12:12 PM, Saturday, April 18th.