

Twin Cities International Elementary School

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, January 9, 2010, 10:41 am, at the International Education Center, 277 12th Avenue North, Room 120, Minneapolis, MN, 55401.

Board Members Present: Secretary Ms Mandee Rickard, Treasurer Ms Kristin Kjolsing, Community Members Mr. Mohamoud Khalif, and Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim, School Members Mr. Abdullah Mohamed and Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, Teachers Ms. Jessica Wrobleski, Mr. Ibrahim Aden, and Ms Wesam Shaker.

Absent: Chair Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed

Ms. Kjolsing appointed Mr. Abdirashid Warsame as Chair for today's meeting.

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

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

1.0 Open Meeting

The appointed Chair for today's meeting welcomed members, acknowledged apologies from Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed for his absence from today's meeting, welcomed Jim Grose from Century College and requested that introductions be made from the group.

Round table introductions followed.

2.0 Approve Agenda

Mr. Black requested to acknowledge feelings/grief due to recent Somali incidents in the news during the director's report of today's meeting.

Ms. Kjolsing moved to approve the agenda and add the aforementioned current events to the director's report, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded, motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Minutes from the previous meeting of December 12, 2009

Ms. Kjolsing moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted, Ms. Wrobleski seconded, 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 for December 2009.
- 4.1.2 Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that the trend is more positive with a tracking of 50% overall.
- 4.1.3 Student enrollment is currently at 580, same as last month. Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that the budget allows for a cushion of roughly 25-35 students.
- 4.1.4 Mr. Black asked for clarification in student enrollment numbers.
- 4.1.5 Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that TIES had 570 students at the beginning of the school year, revised to 550, and now currently tracking at 585. While the budget has been set for 550 students, by the end of the year the average number of students over the course of the year will even out the numbers and budget. Mr. Mohamed Egeh expects to end the school year with 570-525 students allowing a 20 person cushion with \$106,000.
- 4.1.6 The Audit was passed out to board members from the new audit firm. The exception with the new firm is that time sheets must now be kept differently. Next board meeting the official audit will be presented by the auditors.
- 4.1.7 Mr. Eckart reported that this type of audit is a “single federal audit” due to all our kids in Title I and free and reduced and the ELL population.
- 4.1.8 Mr. Mohamed Egeh noted that schools that qualify for this audit have more than \$500,000 allocated between title programs and food reimbursements.

Mr. Ibrahim Aden moved, and Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded the motion to accept the financial report as up to date as submitted. The Motion passed unanimously

5.0 Authorizer’s Report

1. Mr. Jim Grose introduced himself and stated he will share responsibilities with Mr. Black. Mr. Grose noted that he is looking forward to helping and supporting TIES.
2. Mr. Black shared that he is saddened by the loss of the East African men that were in the recent news and expressed concerns about the potential ripple effects in the community and how to best support those mourning in the school and community.
3. Mr. Black reported that Eugene Piccolo had a heart attack and expressed thoughts for a full recovery. Mr. Piccolo is a part of the Charter School Association.
4. Mr. Black announced the closing of Georgia Tech. due to weather, and commended TIES for forgoing school sessions despite our cold season.
5. The president of Century College sent out a letter to members of the community, Mr. Black requested the letter to be attached to this month’s minutes. The letter notes construction changes and why community members choose Century College for their schooling needs. Mr. Black pointed out highlights of the letter in

regards to fiscal short falls and trying to keep true to goals already set by the college.

6.0 Director's Report

Mr. Eckart reported:

1. Vikings visit was a success and launched an essay contest where 3 winners were chosen from each grade. Six of the students received prizes. The grand prize was a signed football.
 2. Winter break- low attendance first day back, now numbers are back up.
 3. TIES will be monitored for title I and II on February 17th and 18th of 2010. A lot of work is being done to prepare for the monitoring.
 4. TIES will also undergo monitoring for the Special Education Program in March.
 4. Discussed the Somali deaths in the recent news.
- Discussion followed of who knew the men, feelings, impact of the news, and support that elders are providing for students and the community.

7.0 Other Reports and Action Items

7.1 Policy Readings

Second 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

Ms. Wroblewski asked for questions or concerns of how policies read as model policies. Time was given to look over the policies. Mr. Black requested to make them personalized to our needs/school.

Chair assigned 2nd reading to policies 601, 603, 612-1, and 616.

Final Readings

- 7.1.5 401 Equal Employment Opportunity
- 7.1.6 214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members

Chair assigned the board to read policies 401 and 214 and have as final. Chair asked for any changes. Ms. Rickard noted to make personalized to our needs/school.

Discussion followed of necessary changes. Changes were noted by Ms. Wroblewski to be updated.

Ms. Rickard moved to approve both policies with changes 401 and 214 as final. Ms. Kjolsing seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Kindergarten Early Enrollment

Ms. Kjolsing presented research findings regarding the possibility of pushing back the kindergarten enrollment deadline. Main areas of concern included:

1. New policies required
2. Assessments
3. Cost/Time factors

Ms. Kjolsing and Ms. Rickard consulted with Mr. David Hartman, state official, regarding processes and recommendations. The process appears to be very detailed orientated with specific deadlines and programs needing to be in place at the referral level. In depth discussion followed focused on costs, time, policies, guidelines, and impact. Mr. Eckart noted the importance to follow state laws and address community economic concerns. Preschool services and daycare added to TIES wish list. Chair asked if research and task should be continued. Mr. Eckart requested a summary sheet of all costs as well as more information to educate parents. Ms. Wroblewski suggested changing research focus to high emphasis on fulfilling community needs.

Ms. Kjolsing and Ms. Rickard will continue research for parent education.

7.3 Board Goals for 2009-2010 Progress Up-Date

Ms. Rickard created and shared updated goals document. Conversation followed with additions/changes.

Additions and changes were noted by Ms. Rickard.

8.0 Adjournment

Ms. Kjolsing moved, and Ms. Rickard seconded, that the Meeting adjourn at 12:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously