

Twin Cities International Elementary School

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, February 20, 2010, at 10:47 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. Mohamoud Khalif, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim, Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, Ms. Jessica Wrobleski and Ms. Wesam Shaker.

Absent: Ms. Mande Rickard and Mr. Ibrahim Aden.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Authorizer representative Mr. Tom Black of Century College and Dr. 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 Chair opened the meeting at 10:47 am.

2.0 Approve Agenda.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh requested to switch 4.a and 4.b in the agenda under financial report to give our auditor a chance to speak earlier in today's meeting.

Chair approved the change.

Ms. Kjolsing moved to approve the agenda with change to 4.a and 4.b

All in favor said "I".

Abdisamad seconded.

Agenda was approved unanimously.

The Chair appointed Ms. Wrobleski as temporary secretary for today's meeting.

3.0 Approve minutes from the previous meeting of December 12, 2009.

Time was given to review last month's minutes

Discussion took place on the spelling of Eugene's name.

Mr. Black provided the correct spelling-- Piccolo

Mr. Mohamoud Khalif moved to approve the minutes from January 9, 2010 with the correction cited above, Ms. Wrobleski seconded, all in favor said "I" chair carried motion.

4.0 Financial Report.

The Chair welcomed Dave Bloomberg from the auditing firm to present the school's recent audit.

Mr. Bloomberg stated:

- 4.1 His firm works with 15-20 charter schools. Including a lot of Mr. Mohamed Egeh's schools.
- 4.2 Typically all of Mr. Mohamed Egeh's schools are boring audits, which translates to a good audit.
- 4.3 Mr. Bloomberg and his firm truly enjoy working with Mr. Mohamed Egeh and his schools.
- 4.4 A lot of charter schools in the news are ones they audit and they aren't doing so well. Mr. Bloomberg is glad that TIES is doing great with great supporting staff and administration.
- 4.5 Passed out audit.
- 4.6 Walked the board through each page, briefly outlining reports on each page.
- 4.7 Findings noted:
 - 4.7.1 Employees that work on the Title I program need to fill out a time sheet filling citing what percentage they work in each area, not required by MDE but the federal program does require it. No issues this year with the food program- glad to see that we took action from last year's findings and fixed this issue.
 - 4.7.2 Other issues or findings:
Very well run school, a boring audit, which for an auditor is a great audit.
- 4.8 Mr. Black stated that MN School Board Association has encouraged budgets that project out 18 months in advance and asked, "Is there anything that is not looked upon as good accounting practices, to look that far in advance?" Mr. Bloomberg responded that when projecting out 18 months the second year is more of a forecast and not as concrete. He cautioned that a second year projection wouldn't be as precise as it could be.
- 4.9 Mr. Black asked, "Is there a new standard for better foresight?" Mr. Bloomberg replied that TIES has this already with an engaged board, Mr. Mohamed Egeh doing great accounting, and an active administration.

**Auditor is always looking at the previous year, never on the current year.

Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim noted that finances coming to our school are taken seriously in regards to how they are spent because they come from the government and the state. Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim thanked Mr. Bloomberg for sharing the information with us.

The Chair thanked Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim for his comments and Mr. Bloomberg for his audit 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 July to January report stating that we are at 58%.
- 4.1.2 Budget this month is based on 558 student enrollment
- 4.1.3 Last count current enrollment was between 595-597
- 4.1.4 YTD report important findings:
 - 4.1.4.1 General supplies have exceeded by \$4,000. Mr. Mohamed Egeh pointed out that we need to keep an eye on this area and have savings in other line items.
 - 4.1.4.2 Technology is front loaded at 58%, department is tracking right along. Mr. Eckart commented smart boards will be installed for 1st and 2nd grade later this year and that money will have to come from the technology budget.
 - 4.1.4.3 Insurance on the buildings tracking at 56%. This is tracking below the benchmark.

Mr. Mohamed Egeh asked for any questions or concerns about the report and budget.

The Chair thanked Mr. Mohamed Egeh and again asked for any questions

Discussion followed about the limitations of TIES money and how it can be used legally for loans or investment purposes. Ideas suggested included: investing in MIMS and/or purchasing our school vs. renting. The idea of charter schools being able to purchase has been recently in the news. Dr. Eckart noted that from the discussion all ideas presented were great ideas, but really TIES is limited in where it can invest. TIES is required to put money in a banking system where it can be withdrawn immediately. If TIES invests in a CD, it can only be in a five month CD.

Ms. Wroblewski motioned to approve the YTD budget report and audit, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded, motion carried.

5.0 Authorizer's Report.

Charter School Authorizer Remarks:

Mr. Jim Black

1. Mr. Black shared newspaper clippings that the MN Charter School Association puts out. Clipping discussion highlights included:
 - Legislature talking about charter school owning their sites
 - MN district poised to create two schools including a K-5 French immersion school.
 - Star tribune sent out a story about the delays in funding and how it will be made up/paid back in full by May 30th. Mr. Black commented that it is positive to know TIES has funds in reserve to protect the school if this money is not paid for some reason.

-Channel 9 came to the TIES/MIMS building. Mr. Black noted it was encouraging and positive to see our school location in the news.

6.0 Director's Report.

Dr. Eckart reported:

1. Suggested extending the school day by a half hour, but noted this idea is contingent on the bussing.
2. The bus company suggested adding 15 minutes to the beginning of the day and 15 to the end of the day.
3. The intention of extending the school day is to provide more time for interventions to be done without taking away from the core areas of the school day already so vital and needed.
4. 3rd grade already does this extra 20 minutes of interventions called "Masterminds."
5. Dr. Eckart is asking the board to consider this idea for future meeting discussions.
6. Dr. Eckart noted this idea would also affect the calendar committee.
7. Mr. Black inquired how this would affect the teachers. Mr. Eckart commented that the teachers are already here that time due to their contracts; their day would not be extended.
8. NWEA testing-tracking the same as we were at this time last year in reading. If we keep tracking at this rate we will make safe harbor but the real goal is to make AYP. Currently according to our tracking we are at a good spot, we want to be in a better spot.
9. Monitored for title I and II this past week. In the end the monitors orally gave administration a good report. The written report will follow in roughly 30 days. Corrections will need to take place-but they are minor.
10. Reading Olympics began on February 12th and will go to March 12th
11. Finished 2nd quarter. Report cards went home of February 3rd.
12. Vision and Hearing screenings done. 100 vision referrals out of 240 students. Free vouchers sent out for students to get glasses.
13. Minneapolis Rotary Club coming on Friday the 26th at 8:30 am to pass out dictionaries to 3rd grade.
14. Parent teacher conferences will be coming up in 2 weeks.

The Chair thanked Dr. Eckart for his report and asked for any questions.

7.0 Other Reports and Action Items.

7.1 Policy Readings

First reading

- 7.1.0** Chair gave time to board to look over policies: 102, 412 and 514 then as first readings.

Ms. Kjolsing moved the motion to accept policies 102, 412 and 514 as first readings, Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim seconded, motion carried.

Final reading

- 7.1.1 601-School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals.**

Ms. Wrobleski outlined what would be taken out and stated that no other changes would be made, policy would read as is.

Ms. Kjolsing moved to adopt 601 with highlighted notes, Ms. Wrobleski seconded. Motion carried.

7.1.2 603-Curriculum Development.

Mr. Wrobleski noted wording will be changed where highlighted to read “director”.

Ms. Wrobleski made a motion to adopt policy 603 with changes, Ms. Kjolsing seconded, motion carried.

7.2 Kindergarten Early Entrance – (parent pamphlet).

Ms. Kjolsing announced Debbie K. Peterson is putting all the information together for TIES, but it’s not ready at the moment. Ms. Kjolsing asked to keep this item on the agenda for future meetings so that she can update the board as she receives new information.

7.3 2010-2011 School Year Calendar.

The Chair requested to combine items e and g.

Dr. Eckart commented that the calendar committee needs to be in coordination with MIMS and the High School. Coordination needs to be in agreement so the calendars for all three schools are the same.

Questions to ask:

Do we want to extend student contact days?

When does the board want the calendar presented?

Dr. Eckart stressed the urgency to plan as quickly as possible and to appoint a calendar committee.

Ms. Kjolsing nominated herself to work on the calendar committee.

The Chair noted that Ms. Kjolsing and Ms. Kelli Wilson from TIES will work on the calendar.

Motion was moved by Mr. Mohamoud Khalif to approve calendar committee and present on community feelings towards extending the school calendar, Ms. Wrobleski seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Black suggested checking to see if Minneapolis schools will extend or lower their amount of school days of 176.

7.4 Update Board Goals 2009-2010.

Board looked over packet of board goals.

Ms. Wroblewski requested to update policies just approved and currently working on.

7.5 Extending Student Contact Days.

Combined with item e. (see notes above).

8.0 Action Items.

8.1 Policy Committee (final reading):

The Chair noted we adopted policy 601 and 603

9.0 Old Business.

No old business at this time.

10.0 Adjournment.

Ms. Kjolsing moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 pm Mr. Mohamoud

Khalif seconded. Motion carried.