

Minutes of the Meeting of the OTA Board of Directors
February 12, 2015
7th Grade Classroom, 2120 San Diego Avenue

Present: Chris Celentino, Anna Sick, Hunter Hawkins, Mirielle DesRosiers-Kutchuk.
Dr. Carleton Lincoln (Telephonically). A quorum was present.

Also Present: Tom Donahue, Executive Director, Caren Kamanski, Office Manager, Jeff Major, Assistant Director.

Members of the public present were: Two people.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chair, Chris Celentino.

Mr. Celentino welcomed everyone, and described the responsibility of the Board, the meeting procedures, and provisions of the Brown Act. As Chair, with less than 25 persons present, Mr. Celentino suspended the formal "speaker slip" obligations of the meeting.

The Approval of the Minutes from the December 14, 2014 were approved by unanimous vote, in the form attached hereto and ratified hereby. Mr. Celentino reported that the minutes of June 30, 2014 needed to be prepared and approved; and further that the meeting of August 20, 2014 was an informal "meet and greet" between OTA personnel and TVLC personnel, and that there would be no minutes to approve.

Information Items:

Public Comment: A member of the audience asked if it would be possible to broadcast Board Meetings via PodCast. Chair Celentino indicated that there may be privacy concerns, but that as part of the TVLC closing taking place this year, perhaps it was possible, and asked the Executive Director to discuss with Tri-Valley and include same in his report at the next Board meeting.

A) Executive Director Report:

Tom Donahue presented the Executive Director's report regarding the status of the school, covering the following:

- iPad Learning Apps: Home Learning Challenges (steal back screen time, take back time from wasted programs like Angry Birds, Halo, Minecraft; but get iPads at home for Pizza Math and other positive programs): Foreign Language, Math, Piano, etc.; 8th Grade Plant Physiology
- New Music Program: Virtuoso Music Academy
- Math Lab: TAPS (being revised to fit better), ST Math/That Quiz, Saxon
- Sports Lab, Athletic Program - Post pyramid, video participation, throw/shoot like a girl

- Facilities update: New Landlord; Prop Z Update; Status of Former Landlord's Lawsuit v Prior Buyer; Prop 39 Energy Upgrades (LEDs and bullet proof glass); Black-top/Turf Repairs (and Sub-committee);
- Staffing Update -- Changes Since 8/20/14; Update on Teacher Milestones (2014-2015 Revised Offer Letters) -- include teachers in recess, outdoor ed. Ms. Ramirez was welcomed back to the office, and her ability to process attendance relieves Ms. Kamanski of a great burden. With TVLC support, the school is embarking to find a full-time science teacher; added 2 new science interns; and a new first grade intern. Tom reported that the audit team from SDUSD last year reported that our teachers were among the happiest in the 40 schools they reviewed.
- Tom's Goal remains to free CEO up from day-to-day duties, so he can focus his energies on Curriculum development, Teacher Training, and a New Campus
- Positive report on reduction of bullying on campus
- High School update; parent meeting scheduled; group moving forward

An audience member asked a question about Common Core v. Core Knowledge, and Tom reported that our program encompasses Common Core at its heart, and that we are working to incorporate statistics into TAPs, which will accelerate our math levels above Common Core goals.

B) Assistant Director's Report: Jeff Major, Assistant Director, presented his report covering the following:

- VA Neighborhood Advisory Committee: very quiet, no new developments since last year's Q2 "lock downs" because of police activity; emergency services are being reported; Officer Tim reported all quiet; School Safety and Notification Plan appears to be working;
- OTA Parents Attended, Impressions; meetings have moved to quarterly
- Aspire Parent Info Meeting Scheduled: School Safety and Notification Plan
- MAP Assessment - Third Benchmark Test and Student Reports Completed: Spring to Spring vs. Fall to Fall Predictions; Student Goal-Setting Sheets; School-wide Performance; notice big drop in summer learning, the summer gap
- STEM Update: 4th-8th Math, Science, Robotics Programs (Albuquerque, Quad Copter); Wine & Dine VIP STEM Demonstrations/Videos

C) Office Manager's Report: Caren Kamanski, Office Manager, presented her report covering the following:

- Interns Arriving from Point Loma Nazarene
- 2015-2016 Lottery Update/Attendance Reports/Office Operations -- 252 successfully submitted on-line applications for Lottery
- Form 700 Compliance: On Motion, Chris Celentino moved, Anna seconded, approved by all, that all Board Members submit their completed Form 700 to Caren, on or before

February 27, 2015, to be timely submitted on March 1, 2015. Chris noted that he would deliver his directly on March 1, 2015.

- D) Tri-Valley Integration Update: The details of the integration plan, and the plan for implementation of the MOU, was deferred to March 4, 2015, and Chris indicated that he would invite both Derek Austin and Bill Batchelor to attend that meeting in person, to ensure establishment of a timetable for MOU implementation.
- E) Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was deferred pending a budget update from Tri-Valley re: the merged budget. Will be presented as part of the March 4, 2015 agenda. The Treasurer also reported that the CEO's deferred bonus from the 2012-2013 academic year, which was approved to be paid at the December 10, 2014 meeting, had been authorized and paid as instructed. In accordance therewith, Tom posted the statistics that indicated that OTA's test scores for K-5 were the 5th highest of all schools, not just charter schools, in the District; and that, including 6-8 Middle school, were 16th among all schools in the District.
- F) OTA Foundation Report. Chris Celentino reported that the Art Director discussion would be dealt with in closed session at the next Board meeting; Chris gave a general update on the wine and dine and asked everyone present to buy their tickets; and requested 100% Board showing on purchase of tickets; and gave a report on the parent/community update/wall of wine events happening on Sundays at Liberty Station park.

V. Action Items

1. Approve itemized spending lists from Trivalley Finance Office John Zukoski (deferred to March 4, 2015 meeting).
2. Approve and Notice of Board Meeting Schedule through June 2015: The Board approved the following meeting dates and times for the remaining of the current school year through June 30, 2015 as follows: April 23, 2015, 7 p.m. ; May 7, 2015, 7 p.m.; June 4, 2015, 6 p.m.; and June 25, 2015, 7 p.m. (tentative end of year). Please note: Dr. Lincoln will call in on 6/4 from Dallas, so the time was set an hour earlier. The CEO and Office Manager were asked to immediately post the entire schedule on the school site, Governance tab.
3. Appointment to High School Board Committee -- Mark Burgess. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that Mark Burgess would be added to the High School Board Committee, and the CEO would extend a welcome to Mark.
4. Chris reminded everyone -- as set forth in the minutes of last month -- that the agenda was supposed to contain an agenda item for the addition of two additional school family representatives to the Board, terms to expire upon the

election of the Site Council as called for in the TVLC MOU, when the Tri-Valley implementation geared up in full force in February 2015. Tom indicated he omitted the agenda item by accident. Chris reminded everyone that Tom had indicated in December his willingness to support the addition of Ken Morris and Ryan Callan when the Tri-Valley implementation moved forward, which will be the primary focus of the March 4, 2015 meeting.

Tom then indicated that he does not want to expand the Board - he saw no reason to change the number. Tom wanted the minutes to reflect that charter school enemies like big Boards, and that charter authorizers want 16 to 17 person Boards to ensure they are completely entangled. Moreover, Tom indicated that the Charter limits a parent to just 1 Board seat; and its best to have disinterested Board members because parents can't run a school. Tom believes expansion of the Board is bad policy; lean and small is better.

Dr. Lincoln commented that the portion of the Board business that deals with curriculum is foreign to most parents, that professional expertise should be a focus, and that a school board runs a danger/risk of credibility if its members do not have professional expertise.

Chris noted that successful Boards are composed of movers and shakers, and influential persons who can make things happen, and that is truly the case for Old Town's competitors, like High Tech, C3, and the schools who received Prop Z recommendations while OTA did not. Chris also mentioned that the TVLC MOU requires OTA to have a 100% family elected Board, then named the Site Council, when school begins in Fall 2015. As a result, it makes no sense to exclude qualified, professional family representatives -- one who runs a flourishing medical practice and another who is a financial executive (and is responsible for tens of thousands of dollars in donations to OTA) -- from gaining Board experience before the upcoming election day.

Hunter noted that the majority of our Board has always been located outside of the school. And Chris noted, again, that the TVLC MOU specifically acknowledged that the Site Council will be 100% elected from family representatives.

It was agreed that the motion would be an action item on the March 4 Board agenda.

Those in attendance from the public were thanked and excused. A closed session ensued to discuss the real estate report and an update on Teacher Development and Performance.

Closed Session Minutes

1. Real Estate Report: Tom reported on the possible locations for a new OTA campus, including some in Mission Valley, Kearney Mesa, and other locations. In light of being turned down for Prop Z funds, it is Tom's belief that a new, larger campus is required. Tom's hope is to be freed up to spend more time on such searching. Chris reminded everyone that the Board, and the Site Council when elected, controls the location of a new campus.
2. Teacher Development/Performance. A complaint has been registered with the GC of SDUSD by an OTA family, focusing on two issues regarding their child: first, a complaint that the school, the office, and the affected teacher, are non-responsive to parent requests for meetings; and second, since the issue with the child centers on a claim that the child's teacher is an alleged bully to the child, that the parents request that the teacher not meet alone with the child to discuss the child's complaints with the teacher has been repeated violated.

Chris raised the issue of whether or not the complaint policy is appropriate, whether or not the school has the appropriate responsiveness when dealing with such complaints, whether the parents have enough familiarity with the process, and whether the process needs to be tweaked to be more user friendly while allowing the school sufficient time to be initially responsive, but to also fully investigate complaints. Of course, since the school's handbooks will change in the fall, significant change for this school year is suspect, unless warranted.

A discussion was had regarding teacher posting of after-school office hours, and a 48 hour mandatory response rule, to ensure timely communication with parents.

Dr. Lincoln moved, and it was unanimously agreed, that the ED would review the current complaint policy and teacher office hour and response-time policy, and make a recommendation in closed session at the next Board meeting if any tweaks would be appropriate before the handbook rewrite for the fall, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

