

# PATHWAYS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 12, 2009 – Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Coffee Learning Center  
620 Hoen Ave.  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95405

**Pathways Charter School Board of Directors' meetings are open to the public, except for certain subjects that are addressed in closed executive session in accordance with the Brown Act. If any member of the public wishes to attend and requires special accommodations due to conditions outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the School Director at least 2 working days prior to the meeting.**

## **1.0 Call to Order 6:54**

## **2.0 Roll Call: Eva, Ben Joel**

## **3.0 Approval of the Agenda: Approved**

## **4.0 Comments from the Audience: No Comments**

Visitors are allowed to address the Board for up to three (3) minutes on items not on the agenda for a total of 20 minutes per topic. With Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comment. The Board does not respond or take action on these comments.

## **5.0 Closed Executive Session 6:55**

5.1 Personnel

## **6.0. Reconvene Open Session 7:13**

Report from Closed Session

## **7.0 Comments from the Audience**

### **Commendations for Denice Hall, Michele Blaisdell, Sue Miller, Claudia Jalaty, Jessyca Lytle and Robert Tavonnati for work on WASC committee.**

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## 8.0 Reports and Correspondence

Director's Report: Voluntary reductions in student accounts will be sufficient to handle new budget. End of March is ordering deadline, so as long as student budgets are spent as committed, we'll meet our saving requirements. WASC meeting went well, but we don't know anything for sure until final determination is made.

Charter renewal, had intended to submit last month, but work showed that policies needed to be board approved, so we have those items on the agenda tonight for that purpose. Montessori request was denied by Sonoma County Board of Education, should know by the beginning of next month what they will do, and they will ultimately have to appeal to state. Hoping to get initial response by CDE, which determine next course of action.

Administrative Team Reports: All area information is in reports, which were provided. No discussion. Curriculum coordinator discussed method to address plagiarism. Higher learning thinking skills went out to staff to familiarize them with new policy adopted. Streamlining and developing various online activities.

Special Services added to report that the Spirit of Education event was so much fun. Also discussed careful advising kids that may not be appropriate for Independent Study and has experienced that recently 3 have come in and have decided on their own that it wasn't a fit.

Budget Manager's Report: Final budget deal for this year and this year, a relief to be able to sweep some funds into general funds. Down another approx. \$60 per student next year. The only thing left to cut is salary and stipends. April May and June are the critical period. May could change next year's budget. State hit us harder than expected, Charter schools more than others.

Audience member comment: Genentech and Anhauser Busch may have grant possibilities for our type of school. One has a deadline of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Board Member Reports: Director evaluation discussed.

## 9.0 Discussion/Action items

*Some items may require Action from the Board and are noted as such.*

9.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Action) JL/BF 3/0

9.2 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OFFICERS- PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER (Action)

The Board will appoint officers for the current year. Ben Ford, President (until June), Robert Tavonnati, Secretary (until annual organization meeting in November), Sharon Beretta, Treasurer (until June). EP/JL 2/0

9.3 BUDGET REDUCTION FOLLOW-UP REPORT (Discussion)

At the February 2009 Board meeting the Board requested that families be contacted to see if they would voluntarily conserve student budgets to balance the budget. Nothing to add to report provided. Families appreciated the opportunity to volunteer.

9.4 SECOND INTERIM REPORT (Action)

The Board will receive and approve the second interim budget report. Short discussion of explanation, all details in reports. JL/EP 3/0

9.5 BYLAW REVISIONS (Action): Note: Robert to have discussion with lawyer regarding adding language about the Brown Act, and that Pathways intends to comply with the "Spirit", though it contends that it is not technically bound by the Act. That said, the motion was presented so that Benicia could move forward with its business. EP/JL 3/0

The current bylaws require minor revisions in preparation for charter renewal.

9.6 POLICY REVISION- CONFLICT OF INTEREST (Action): Request by BF to have the form provided at the end of the new policy that is referred to within the policy document. Motion to approve policy "as-is, with request to revisit and add that piece at a later time. JL/BF 3/0

This policy requires revision in preparation for charter renewal

9.7 POLICY REVISION- HEALTH AND SAFETY (Action): EP/JL 3/0

This policy requires revision in preparation for charter renewal

9.8 POLICY ADOPTION- 504 PLAN (Action): EP/JL 3/0

This policy was discussed for adoption during the June 2008 Board meeting but the minutes did not show that the policy was adopted

9.9 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION (Action): EP/JL 3/0

In preparation of charter submission to Benicia USD, the Articles of Incorporation need to be amended to allow for the corporation to operate multiple schools

9.10 SOLANO CHARTER PROPOSAL (Discussion/Action)

The Board will review the draft of the charter to be submitted to the Benicia USD: Pages 4, 23, 24, 25 all mention "complying with the Brown Act". Until we see resolution from the attorney we prefer to "operate in accordance with the spirit of the Brown Act". If that somehow negates the charter, we authorize Robert to move forward with the language in its current state. We also recommend removing 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph in section titled "How Learning Best Occurs". It is moved that Robert has the authority to complete and submit the proposal in its entirety pursuant to this discussion with attorney. EP/JL 3/0

9.11 WASC VISIT REVIEW (Discussion)

The WASC visiting team completed their review of the Pathways program on March 9-10. Final Accreditation decision expected in June.

9.12 DIRECTOR EVALUATION (Discussion)

The Board will review the director evaluation form return rate from Staff and Board.

## **10.0 Consent items: EP/BF 3/0**

*Consent items are routine, non-controversial agenda items that will be approved or rejected as whole, without extensive discussion or debate.*

10.1 BUDGET TRANSFERS

10.2 NEW VENDOR COURSE INSTRUCTORS (VCIs)

## **11.0 Adjournment 8:49 BF/EP 3/0**