

Minutes – Approved
Ocean Charter School Special Board Meeting
February 21, 2007
Ocean Charter School
12606 Culver Blvd., Los Angeles 90066
Called to Order 6:10 pm by Joan Wicks, Board Chairman

Present: Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Kami Cotler, Jefferson Eliot, Deborah Fryman, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Alex Metcalf, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks. A quorum was present.

Open Forum (Opportunity for Public Comments)

Community members Greg Wong, Eric Perl and Teresa Sakamoto spoke against the school's decision to utilize Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles to provide sexual education to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Each asked the Board to overturn that decision.

Community members Andrea Reibsam, Ran Boytner, Tammy Stanton, and Eileen Kennedy spoke in favor of retaining Planned Parenthood.

Administrator Kristy Mack-Fett explained how the administration and faculty had decided to use Planned Parenthood to provide sexual education to its middle school students.

Special education instructor Michelle Hedge expressed her understanding that the faculty intend to integrate sexual education into the school's curriculum but that, until that could happen, many of them supported the plan to use Planned Parenthood.

Sexual Health Education Training

Deborah Fryman facilitated a lengthy Board discussion on whether OCS should use Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles to provide sexual education to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Topics addressed included the potential message that using Planned Parenthood sends to the community, the level of community support in favor of and against using Planned Parenthood, and the role of the Board in deciding curriculum issues. The Co-Directors expressed their support for retaining Planned Parenthood and indicated that they had chosen not to research alternatives for the Board to consider.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved that Ocean Charter School provide sexual education to its middle school students either through its faculty members or through nonpartisan outside entities, rather than through Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles. Leo Trujillo-Cox seconded the motion. Jason Haas and Leo Trujillo-Cox voted in favor. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jefferson Eliot, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, and Wendy Teeter opposed. Cissy Stanford and Joan Wicks abstained. Motion failed.

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MOTION: Jefferson Eliot moved that the Board support the administration in its actions regarding Planned Parenthood. Wendy Teeter seconded the motion.

MOTION: Tamar Kern moved to amend the motion to include language that the faculty and administration would take up the issue of developing its own curriculum in the next academic year. This motion was withdrawn.

Following further discussion, Mr. Eliot withdrew his motion.

Possible action items were then discussed but none were agreed upon.

OCS Board and Faculty Communication

The Board discussed whether establishing additional channels of communications between itself and the teachers was advisable and, if so, what mechanism might be established.

MOTION: Alex Metcalf moved that two Board members attend the next available faculty meeting to discuss options for a line of communications between the Board and the faculty. Jefferson Eliot seconded the motion. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Alex Metcalf moved that two members of the OCS Board of Trustees go to the March 7, 2007 faculty meeting to solicit faculty proposals on informal direct channels of communication between the Board and the faculty. Tamar Kern seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jefferson Eliot, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

It was agreed that, due to interest and availability, four Board members would attend the March 7, 2007 faculty meeting: Lori Andrade, Deborah Fryman, Cissy Stanford, and Joan Wicks

OCS Correspondence from some members of the OCS Faculty

MOTION: Alex Metcalf moved that a full investigation by an outside entity be established to determine the veracity of allegations contained in the teachers' letter dated February 7, 2007. Jefferson Eliot seconded the motion. The Board discussed this issue at some length. Jefferson Eliot, Nancy O'Rourke, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. Lori Andrade, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Beth Rendeiro, and Leo Trujillo-Cox opposed. Patti Binder abstained. Motion failed.

Further discussion on this topic was deferred until the closed session.

Co-Director Evaluation

Joan Wicks noted that virtually the entire Board submitted evaluations of the Co-Directors, as did 11 faculty members and 3 parent volunteers. The Co-Directors had not yet submitted their self-evaluations to the Director Evaluation task force. That group was

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to meet on February 23 to review and synthesize the collected feedback to present at the special Board meeting on February 28, 2007.

Jefferson Eliot left the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session at 8:30 p.m. pursuant to Brown Act section 54957.6. Closed session adjourned: 9:00 pm. The following Board actions were taken during closed session:

MOTION: Beth Rendeiro moved that the Executive Committee of the OCS Board of Trustees look into finding a mediator to meet with the administration and faculty to address issues in the teachers' letter dated February 7, 2007. Tamar Kern seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved that the Board designate the Executive Committee of the OCS Board of Trustees to oversee and initiate an investigation into the allegations contained in the teachers' letter dated February 7, 2007 relating to the departure of Rosamond Pope. Tamar Kern seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Jason Haas, Secretary
OCS Board of Trustees