

Minutes – Approved
Ocean Charter School Special Board Meeting
May 21, 2007
Ocean Charter School
12606 Culver Blvd., Los Angeles 90066
Called to Order 7:08 pm by Joan Wicks, Board Chairman

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

Open Forum (Opportunity for Public Comments)

Director Search: Numerous teachers and community members spoke in favor of one of two Director candidates: Joan Ingle and Dr. Peter J. Samaranayake ("Dr. Sam"). Teacher Charlene Haney, speaking on behalf of herself and teacher Debra Bryant, endorsed the hiring of Dr. Sam and further thanked the Board for providing the teachers and OCS community the opportunity to view and provide comments on the prospective Director candidates.

Fifth Grade Class: Numerous parents of children in the current fifth grade class addressed the Board to repeat their requests from the May 17, 2007 Special Board meeting: that the class be assigned a current OCS teacher for the 2007-2008 Academic Year rather than a teacher newly hired by OCS. Teacher Charlene Haney proposed that the Board create a task force to investigate the needs of the class and to attempt to find creative solutions to meet those needs.

Jean Gasca: Drama teacher Stoney Westmoreland and volunteer teaching assistant Brian O'Rourke spoke in support of eighth grade teacher Jean Gasca and asked that OCS reconsider its decision not to renew her contract for the 2007-2008 Academic Year.

Petition from 5th Grade Parents

The Board discussed potential methods of providing the current 5th grade class with an experienced OCS teacher for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. It was noted that OCS's contract with the Ocean Charter School Teachers' Association requires OCS to provide two forms of notice before it can reassign a teacher involuntarily and that the deadlines for both forms of notice had already passed, so that any teacher to be reassigned would have to consent to the move.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved to create a 5th grade Task Force to address identifying a teacher to head that class for the 2007-2008 school year. Wendy Teeter seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Nancy O'Rourke, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Beth Rendeiro abstained. Motion passed.

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MOTION: Jason Haas moved to appoint Joan Wicks, Charlene Haney, Michelle Hedge, Cissy Stanford, Stoney Westmoreland, and Deborah Stambler to the 5th Grade Task Force. Wendy Teeter 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. Motion passed.

Ocean Charter Teacher's Association, CTA/NEA (OCTA)

OCTA President Charlene Haney presented the topics OCTA intends to raise in collective bargaining with OCS for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. (A list of these topics is attached as Exhibit A to these minutes.)

Ocean Charter School Sunshine Proposal

Trustee and OCS Collective Bargaining Team member Jason Haas presented the topics OCS intends to raise in collective bargaining with OCTA for the 2007-2008 Academic Year. (A list of these topics is attached as Exhibit B to these minutes.)

OCS Elections

Discussion on this topic was tabled until a future meeting.

Finance

Attendance: Treasurer Wendy Teeter addressed the financial ramifications for OCS of having an average daily attendance below 95% and stressed the benefits to OCS of improving its attendance rate. Co-Director Kami Cotler noted that that OCS's computer system for tracking attendance had been changed to improve the administration's ability to monitor and enforce OCS's attendance policies. Other methods for addressing this issue were discussed.

MOTION: Beth Rendeiro moved to create a Task Force to address attendance policies and attendance issues. 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. Motion passed.

Nancy O'Rourke temporarily left the meeting.

MOTION: Leo Trujillo-Cox moved to appoint Wendy Teeter, Nancy O'Rourke, Sara Maun, Jeanne Elmstrom, and Michelle Hedge to the OCS Attendance Task Force. Tamar Kern seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Sara Maun, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. Motion passed.

Nancy O'Rourke rejoined the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Wendy Teeter and Jeanne Elmstrom to draft a letter to OCS parents regarding attendance.

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ACTION ITEM: Nancy O'Rourke to investigate policies used by other schools to improve attendance.

ACTION ITEM: Sara Maun to collect information on health issues that affect attendance.

Check Register:

MOTION: Wendy Teeter moved to approve the March 2007 OCS Check Register. 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. Motion passed.

Closed Session

The Board reconvened into closed session at 9:03 p.m. pursuant to Brown Act section 54957.6. Administrator Kristy Mack-Fett, Director Search Task Force members Liz Koravos, Andrea Reibsam, and Jefferson Schierbeek, and ExEd representative Tammy Stanton were in attendance. The Board discussed the appointment of new administrators. At 10:50 p.m., Ms. Koravos left the meeting. At 11:15 p.m., Alex Metcalf left the meeting. At 11:30 p.m., Patti Binder left the meeting. Closed session adjourned at 12:10 a.m. The following two Board actions were taken in closed session.

MOTION: Alex Metcalf moved that OCS hire Hiromi Matsue as the Ocean Charter School Foreign Language Program Development Consultant at the terms set forth in the OCS job description. 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. Motion passed.

MOTION: Joan Wicks moved to appoint the OCS Executive Committee to negotiate with the Board designee to serve as director for at least the 2007-2008 School Year. Patti Binder seconded the motion. Lori Andrade, Patti Binder, Jason Haas, Tamar Kern, Nancy O'Rourke, Beth Rendeiro, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Sara Maun abstained. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jason Haas, Secretary
OCS Board of Trustees