



Minutes – Approved
Ocean Charter School Special Board Meeting
May 15, 2008

Ocean Charter School
12606 Culver Blvd., Los Angeles 90066

Called to Order 7:19 pm by Joan Wicks, Board Chairman

Present: Lori Andrade, Jason Haas, Liz Koravos, Dean Kubani, Peter Samaranayake, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, Joan Wicks, and Julie Yarnall.

Absent: Jeannie Elmstrom and Beth Rendeiro.

A quorum was present.

Closed Session

The Board convened into closed session at 7:20pm pursuant to Brown Act sections 54957 (Personnel-Discipline/Dismissal/Release) and 54956.9 (Personnel-Public Employee Appointment). Director Peter Samaranayake was in attendance. The Board discussed Personnel-Discipline/Dismissal/Release and Personnel-Public Employee Appointment.

Assistant Principal Kristy Mack-Fett joined the meeting at 8:15pm.

No actions were taken during the closed session.

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:16pm.

Acknowledgement of Board Correspondence

The Board acknowledged correspondence from:

1. Joan Wicks to the Board dated April 17, 2008
2. Tamar Kern to the Board dated April 17, 2008
3. Stacey Lisker to the Board dated April 21, 2008
4. Hannah Merrall to the Board dated April 27, 2008
5. Ran Boytner as forwarded by Lori Andrade to the Board dated April 27, 2008
6. Charlene Haney to the Board dated April 28, 2008
7. Beth Rubenstein as forwarded by Wendy Teeter to the Board dated April 28, 2008
8. Beth Rendeiro to the Board dated April 28, 2008



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Open Forum

Jamie Gazzaniga inquired about the status of the Board’s investigation into the ability of the OCTA President to serve as a non-voting member of the Board. Joan Wicks stated that the School had not yet received the written opinion it had requested from counsel on this issue, but would forward it to the Board once it was received.

MOTION: Dean Kubani motioned to appoint Union President Charlene as a Board member who would not participate in Closed Session. Liz Koravos seconded the motion. Motion withdrawn as it was Open Forum and not noticed.

ACTION ITEM: Joan Wicks will agendize this discussion for the next Board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Leo Trujillo-Cox will arrange a conference call with Dean Kubani and Charlene Haney to discuss the issue of her becoming a Board member.

OCS Executive Search / OCS Administrative Structure

Members of the OCS Executive Search committee had received resumes from three candidates and would interview them next week. The Board and committee members discussed the best process to screen the candidates while still allowing the Board to meet them in a timely manner.

MOTION: Dean Kubani motioned that the Board entrust the OCS Executive Search committee to begin screening candidates and bring recommendations to the Board within 10 days for subsequent interviewing. Lori Andrade seconded. Lori Andrade, Liz Koravos, Dean Kubani, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. Jason Haas abstained. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: The OCS Executive Search committee will put the Executive Search interviewing process in writing for the Board.

Diversity at OCS

Joan Wicks tabled her presentation on diversity at OCS until the next Board meeting. She briefly discussed Element 7, “Means to achieve ethnic and racial balance” from our Charter Renewal. Joan discussed targeted outreach through bilingual materials and information sessions at Title I schools and community centers, and invited the community to gather our resources and commit to this effort.



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MOTION: Joan Wicks motioned to reinvigorate the Diversity Task Force and have a strategic outline available by our Charter Renewal hearing. The Board appointed Joan Wicks, Julie Yarnall and Jamie Gazzaniga as members of the Task Force.

Dean Kubani seconded. Lori Andrade, Jason Haas, Liz Koravos, Dean Kubani, Cissy Stanford, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, and Joan Wicks voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Review of Shared Stakeholders Budget Draft

Dean Kubani, Liz Koravos and Assistant Principal Kristy Mack-Fett introduced the proposals in the Shared Stakeholders budget draft.

Kristy Mack-Fett explained that the committee focused on building upon current program strengths and minimizing the weaknesses. She noted that the proposed Specialty program cuts also bring more equity amongst all grades, which has been an ongoing issue between the upper and lower grades.

Members of the board discussed the proposal to fund a Handwork Assistant but not Spanish. Several expressed support for Spanish, even if only in the lower grades, to support our commitment to diversity. Kristy Mack-Fett stated that other Waldorf schools only offer one foreign language. Andrea Reibsamen noted how challenging it is to find individuals who can deliver a curriculum incorporating an arts-integrated approach for all grades and abilities successfully within our educational model.

Jason Haas requested faculty input on the proposed cut to our foreign languages program. He agreed with hiring a Math and Science instructor for the upper grades to address our area of weakness as noted during Charter Renewal.

Dean Kubani discussed Administrative salaries and dependant coverage. Joan Wicks stressed the importance of complete Administrative coverage on both campuses. Director Peter Samaranayake recommended that we remain flexible with the Administrative salary range but not lessen the number of Administrative full-time employees.

ACTION ITEM: Joan Wicks will agendize the discussion of a comprehensive benefits policy proposal.

Closed Session

The Board convened into closed session at 10:28pm pursuant to Brown Act section 54957.6 (Labor Negotiations). Julie Yarnall recused herself. Peter Samaranayake, Kristy



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Mack-Fett and Office Manager Valentina Vega were in attendance. The Board discussed Labor Negotiations.

Jason Haas left the meeting at 11:50pm.

No actions were taken during the closed session.

The Board reconvened to open session at 12:02am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03am.

Respectfully submitted by
Lori Andrade, Secretary
OCS Board of Trustees