

Lanikai Elementary PCS

Minutes of Board Meeting, November 18, 2009

Board Members present:

Louis Saint-Cyr - President, Parent
Ann Pederson - Secretary, Staff
Vicky Villegas - Teacher
Jake Hinz - Treasurer, Parent
David Saucedo - Principal
Paul Vierling – Community
Phil Whitesell - Vice-President, Community

Community members present:

Janny Gibson Scott Ritchie
Jaime Higgins Peggy Taylor
Clarke Fremgen Cj Baehr
Craig Rowland Kristen Jividen

Board Members Absent

Nora Viarnes - Student Council President

1. Call to Order: The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the October 21 meeting were approved with two abstentions. (Whitesell and Vierling were absent on October 21.)

3. Notice of date change for December meeting: Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15.

4. Finance Forum Recap:

A notice will soon go out to chairs of the five task forces created in October at the last Finance Forum reminding them to be ready to present their business cases for securing additional funding. Responses should be returned by Tuesday, December 15 to Jake Hinz, Board Treasurer. Those reports/business cases will be presented at the board meeting that evening.

5. Student Council Report: none given

6. Community Input: none given

7. Principal's Report;

- Once again Lanikai School has been named a Hawaii Distinguished School, one of thirteen this year. The other charter school named was the UH Lab School. Lanikai School was also selected as one of six Hawaii nominees for the state's Blue Ribbon Schools. From that group, three schools were nominated for national awards. This awards program is sponsored in Hawaii by Frito-Lay.
- Enrollment fluctuates but there are no current problems.
- Tanea Spooner, one of our kindergarten EAs, will be leaving next month. She will join her family on the mainland while her husband is deployed.
- Solar Energy Discussion: Board president Saint-Cyr opened the discussion saying that at the close of the emergency meeting on Monday morning, the board felt it had three options:
 - accept the proposal of Hawaiian Energy (HE)
 - accept but negotiate for changes

- do a full RFP process and explore the three proposals we have (or more)

He pointed out that the case presented by HE was clearly a business proposal from which there was no more significant benefit than from other proposals. The board had directed Mr. Saucedo to release HE from immediate consideration, which he did by telephone on Tuesday morning, 11-17-09. Following that conversation, Mr. Saucedo received a statement from Chris Brashear extending the previous deadlines. The decision of the board made on the 16th to continue investigation is still in effect.

The discussion that followed touched on whether the school itself should become the investor and owner, or possibly look for a donor to provide the buy-in price to the school and thus enable the school to purchase and own the system.

The board asked Jaime Higgins to gather information regarding possible opportunities and to report back as soon as possible. This is not a full charge to the Facilities Committee at this point.

9. Enrollment Committee Report: Chair Shirley Marks has resigned as Chair. No report.

10. Facilities Committee: Jaime Higgins, Chair, reported that planning for the shade covers continues as we wait for approval of the permits. The reason for the hold-up is that the school grounds are an historical site. We do not know why this is so.

11. Health & Safety Committee Report: no report from committee

- Janny Gibson informed the board that she has purchased the original “residential grade” playground equipment.
- Mr. Saucedo announced that the DOE has begun the process of installing a second gate in the fence between Alala Road and our back field in order to allow quicker campus evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Board members discussed the H1N1 vaccinations and how the school might take a more aggressive approach to informing parents of the reasons/risks and pros/cons of the vaccinations. Mr. Saucedo will discuss ideas with the Health Aide: a booth, handouts, signs, etc. Ann Pederson has been posting information and links on the website and newsletter. The next clinic is on December 10 for the one shot required for children age 10 and older, and the first of two required shots for children under age 10.

12. Policy Committee: no report

13. Strategic Planning Committee Report:

Cj Baehr, Chair, reported that the Self-Study phase of the WASC process is nearing completion. Drafts have been written for the Preface, Chapters 1, 2, and 3, and have been sent in draft form to Janet Torncello, the chair of the visiting committee. (Ms. Torncello is a school superintendent in California. Presumably the other three members of the team will be from Hawaii.)

The process is driven by staff rather than by board. Staff groups have been meeting each Wednesday, reporting data, and writing the contents for Chapter 4 in four areas: A.

School Organization for Learning; B. What and How Children Learn and How Assessment Is Used; C. Student Services; and D. Resources. The final step will be development of an action plan by the WASC Leadership Team in December.

14. Finance Committee Report: Jake Hinz submitted the following report.

November 18, 2009

1. A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on November 11, 2009.
2. No community members were in attendance.
3. The committee discussed the end of month (as of October 31, 2009) budget actuals:
 - a. Previous budget deficits have been helped by increases in the “per student” rate, an increase in Federal Impact Aid and distribution of the first half of the “Federal Stimulus.” The committee is optimistic that the second half of the federal stimulus funds will be distributed and released by the Governor, but there is no guarantee.
 - b. Action: The Principal and the Board will continue to monitor the expense rate to ensure that this positive trend continues.
4. Emergency/Contingency Fund Policy: The committee recommends to the board that the following addition to Policy IV, “School Finance,” Policy #2, paragraph 4 be accepted as : *“Contingency Funds shall not be obligated by the Principal without prior authorization by Local School Board vote.”*

Mr. Hinz moved adoption of the above addition to School Finance Policy #2. Phil Whitesell seconded and discussion followed regarding the best way to establish definitions of various budget categories and to ensure against encroachment into contingency funds. Dr. Whitesell moved to table the motion, Louis Saint-Cyr seconded, and the motion was passed with Mr. Hinz abstaining.

15. Board Liaison Committee: Committee met. No report..

16. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. The board member went into closed session.

<p>Motion that <i>“Contingency Funds shall not be obligated by the Principal without prior authorization by Local School Board vote.”</i> was tabled.</p>

Respectfully Submitted: Ann Pederson, Secretary Cj Baehr, Scribe