

Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

April 25, 2019; 4:30 PM

5625 Loyola Avenue, Room 101

Present: Jennifer Fallon, Chair, Joe Caverly, Jeff Clayman, Mary Zervigon, Jim Schneiders, Shannon Fazande, Kathy Parsons, Tamika Duplessis, Cathy Glaser

Absent: Elizabeth Landry, Joe Daschbach, Joan Coulter

Staff: Monique Cola, Claudia Kent

Foundation: April Opko

Notice of the meeting was posted at the school and the agenda was posted on the school website in accordance with the open meetings law.

Having a quorum, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Advocates for Science & Mathematics Education was called to order by Jennifer Fallon on Thursday April 25, 2019, at 4:37 PM

The March 2019 minutes were circulated. Mary moved that we approve the minutes and Tamika seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Finance Report (Claudia Kent)

We are in a stable position even though we show a loss of \$133,000. Cash is a little lower than last month but not by much. We have a current outstanding receivable of internship coordinator and \$30,700 older than 91 days related to a Perkins receivable. We had a lot of maintenance expenses over budget but funds will come out of contingency. So forecast is about \$34,000 in the black assuming we get our goal from the Foundation.

We are doing well with career development funds-courses that lead to certification; we get \$37,000 from the State for this.

Budgeting is underway for next year. Claudia is working on it. Jim mentioned that we will have a line item in next year's budget for board related expenses.

Mary moved to amend the agenda to have Shannon give a Head of School Faculty Survey report.

Committee Reports

Head of School Faculty Survey Results (Shannon Fazande):

The results of faculty surveys compiled by Liz Landry are in. The response rate was higher in February (43) as compared to October (35). The results reflected that overall environment is supportive of professional growth and large percent of results reflected that responders thought Sci High is a good

place to work. The survey showed the following concerns and in bold below are responses by Dr. Cola to those concerns:

- Concerns about communication and collaborations showed lowest scores and largest changes from last survey. **Dr. Cola recognizes that a policy change about detention was implemented with limited input from staff and in considering future policy changes Head of School will provide input and opportunities for all viewpoints. Special attention has already been given when considering changes for next year (Advisory, 4 x 4 schedules). To address different perspectives between instructional and non-instructional programming, Dr. Cola has created a position requiring experience with both areas to guide decision-making.**
- Other areas of concern reflected in changes to scores were: Sci High considers new and better ways of doing things and takes steps to institute need change & at Sci High we set ambitious goals for our students' academic achievement and behavior. **Dr. Cola asked staff during recent professional development to provide concerns that will be addressed in future sessions. Administration and faculty will work collaboratively to guide curricular decisions.**
- Other concerns highlighted in comments were: Poor communication, not consulting stakeholders when implementing changes, lack of enforcement of uniform policy, low expectations for student behavior and lack of support for new teachers and too much work assigned to teachers in general. **Dr. Cola stated that new teachers will be assigned mentor teachers to assist with coaching, class room management and other school wide systems.**

Head of School Report (Dr. Cola):

- **Highlights:** 2 students win awards at History Day Fair, Robotics Team competed in World Competition, Digital Media Production class premiered their short film at Broad Theatre, Beta Club inducted 13 new members, meeting occurred with Tulane Dept. of Comparative Medicine about potential internships
- We are graduating 118 seniors maybe less. 180 students matched in one app. Some have already claimed their seats.
- ACT scores went down. Last year was 18.7 and this year our 8th grade went down to 16.7. Students were not getting prepped to satisfaction of Dr. Cola and that situation has been corrected with a boot camp. Scores do include SPED students. Next year an ACT prep course will be required of 11th graders. . There will be seminars in every grade that will include prep for tests.
- One App has affected enrollment. Seniors have a higher ACT rate. We are watching each class to see where they are and so we can better enable to focus on what students need to improve the ACT scores.
- Joe acknowledged the challenges of an open enrollment stem school and getting new students and freshmen students ready for upper school. Dr. Cola feels the new four course day will help in the long run.

