

East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy
Board Meeting
July 27, 2011
1:00 pm

Present:

David Padilla	Charlotte Jackson, ECUEA Director
Erika Rodriguez	Josh Samuelson, AQS
Rita Jacque Gillis	Tim Ricordati, AQS
John Artis	Vito Bianco, AQS
Joseph Costanza	Elizabeth Silerio, ECUEA
Al Dubin, CSDC	Rebecca Secrest, CSDC

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:14pm by Mrs. Rodriguez.

II. Roll Call

III. Presentation to the Board

At a previous board meeting a request was made of Dr. Ricordati for more information about the financing company for the proposed Charter High School. Two representatives, Mr. Al Dubin and Ms. Rebecca Secrest from the Charter School Development Corporation (CSDC) gave an overview and purpose of the company. Questions were taken afterward concerning past litigation surrounding the Alexander property, contractors used, who advances the collateral and assurances of payments and student population. Mr. Dubin fielded questions about their affiliation with large charter populations and concerns with the location, size of the lot and encroachment of the high school on the surrounding community. Dr. Ricordati asked for the results of the meeting CSDC will have with the E.C. City Planner.

IV. Approval Minutes

Approval of minutes called for by Mrs. Rodriguez. Mr. Costanza motioned and Mr. Artis seconded. The motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Mr. Samuelson stated that this treasury report was a preliminary and that there would be some minor adjustments after the year end clarifications were made, specifically accrued payroll taxes and accrued tuition. Mr. Samuelson will resend a copy of the final report.
- Mr. Costanza wanted clarification about the \$11,000.00 grant funding reimbursement. Josh deferred to Kathie Kansfield who would have more knowledge of the action.

VI. Items Requiring Board Action

Mrs. Rodriguez moved for approval of the financial documents, Mr. Artis seconded. The motion carried.

VII. American Quality Schools Update

- Mr. Artis asked if the administration had ever shown any interest in a local bus company for the field trips, after a brief discussion Mr. Bianco assured the board that we would explore local bus companies, however IL. Bus Comp. which operates out of Gary, IN. was the only option at the time that would service the E.C. area.

- Mrs. Gillis moved to accept the payables as of June 30, 2011. Mr. Artis Seconded. The motion carried.

- Mrs. Gillis asked about the reports for the paid accounts. Mr. Samuelson replied one was what the school owed and the other was what the school paid. Mrs. Rodriguez motioned for approval of the paid accounts. Mr. Artis moved that motion. Mrs. Gillis seconded. Motion carried.

A. Director's Report

The Director's report from Mrs. Jackson included:

- Enrollment for the 2011-12 year is currently 443 students with our goal being 444.
- Student demographics are: 343 students residing in East Chicago (77.4%), 26 in Gary, 56 in Hammond, 4 in Merrillville, 5 in Whiting, 1 in Griffith, 3 in Highland, 4 in Portage and even 1 in Michigan City, 15.80% of these students are new to the school with a total count of 70 including kindergarten.
- Female and male ratio is balanced out this year with the majority being female as opposed to the previous year where the majority was male.
- 29 kindergarten students who have attended pre-school or head start, 9 have attended daycare and 7 with no pre-school experience.
- Student assessments were administered to all incoming kindergarten students.
- New teachers and staff will attend orientation on August 3-5 at TBLA HS. Sessions will include Classroom Management, Instructional Strategies, Content specific information, as well as AQS Policy, HR/Insurance package.
- Administration teams will participate in a 3-day Seminar, August 1-3rd.
- All staff will report to ECUEA on August 8th through the 12th.
- At the previous board meeting an explanation was given in regards to the decline in NWEA and ISTEP scores, in August a detailed remediation document will be presented to the board that will address the decline, close the gaps and raise the scores.
- Mrs. Jackson gave a detailed report about staff replacements and resignations.
- Mrs. Jackson is interviewing candidates for the 6th grade position as well as for a sub for the 2nd grade (Mrs. McKee's maternity leave ends on September 19th).
- Mr. and Mrs. McKee welcomed new baby Emma to the world on July 8th.
- A schedule of the August events was also given by Mrs. Jackson.
- Mr. Artis asked if all the new teachers were certified, Mrs. Jackson replied yes. Mrs. Gillis asked if any were from E.C. Mrs. Jackson stated that there were no new staff members from E.C. but there were 7 existing staff members including T.A's that reside in E.C. Mr. Artis asked if the new teachers had any previous experience. Mrs. Jackson replied yes, Mr. Starkes, Mrs. Ashley and Mrs. Morris.
- Mrs. Gillis inquired if the decline in scores played a part in the decision to terminate those teachers based on performance. Mrs. Jackson replied that the 5th grade teacher was undergoing some problems with performance, Students and interacting with parents prior to the ISTEP testing.
- Mr. Costanza inquired about the school year calendar. Mrs. Jackson would like to align our breaks with the E.C. public schools because there are parents that have other children in the E.C. public schools; however their calendar is not available yet. Mrs. Gillis gave ECTV news as a resource for Mrs. Jackson to find out about the E.C. School City's calendar.

VIII. Old Business

- The action plan for the audit and the High school Update – given by the CSCD.
- Discussion for the board about going forward with a High School. Concerns that the focus should be on the Academy's academic decline instead of expansion.
- Mr. Bianco stated that ECUEA has a plan that will be presented in August to improve our scores and get back on track.
- Mrs. Gillis is still concerned about the vouchers and what impact they will have on our school.

IX. New Business

- Mrs. Gillis requested that Mrs. Jackson provide a comparison to all E.C. schools and the Academy's 6 year performance for the next board meeting.
- Mr. Artis asked for an impact analysis of vouchers on charter schools and education in general.
- Mr. Padilla wants the board to take a look at an article from The Foundation for Educational Choice "A Win-Win Solution - The Empirical Evidence on School Vouchers" Ms. Silerio will forward a copy of the article to the board.
- The School Board wants to meet with Mr. Bianco and Dr. Bakalis. Vito will email available dates and times.
- Mrs. Gillis questioned the cleanliness of the school. She cited the unclean walls, tape on doors, and windows.
- Mrs. Gillis wants a point person for Maintenance Requests. Jeremy Garcia will be the point person and the maintenance forms must have the Director's signature on it before submission.
- Mr. Padilla requested a copy of the By-laws.

X. Board Contributions

- Mr. Padilla presented an ECUEA board report tracking template. The board agreed that the document is needed to monitor trends and areas of concern. Mrs. Gillis Motioned to implement the tracking policy. Mr. Artis seconded. Motion carried.
- Mrs. Gillis motioned to extend an invitation to Educator, Florence Leroy as a new school board member. Mr. Artis seconded. Motion carried.
- Mrs. Gillis inquired about the repairs for the panels in the modular.

XI. Adjournment

Mrs. Rodriguez moved for adjournment at 2:51pm. Mrs. Gillis seconded. The motion carried.