

Minutes-Approved
Ocean Charter School Special Board Meeting
June 18, 2020

Called to order by Josh Dome and convened at 6:35pm.

Board Members Present: Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland

Tammy Stanton and Andrew Tunncliffe were absent.

A quorum was present.

Also present: OCS Executive Director, Stephanie Edwards; OCS Executive Director, Kristy Mack Fett; OCS Teachers, Aly Leavitt, Merrie Schmidt and Hanna Mehring; Ayanthy Peiris from Excellent Education.

Mark Galanty and Edward Eadon joined the meeting at 6:40pm.

CLOSED SESSION: Board Members and Administrators Only

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: 2 cases - Legal Counsel - Sarah Kollman

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to section 54957.6 Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency designated representatives: Chastin Pierman, Stephanie Edwards and Kristy Mack-Fett.
Employee Organization: OCTA

The board reconvened to Open Session at 7:33pm.

There were no actions taken during closed session to report.

Open Forum

Teacher, Aly Leavitt spoke in support of the work the teachers, administration and parents are doing to further develop antiracism curriculum.

Teacher, Merrie Schmidt also spoke in support of the work being done to further develop antiracism curriculum. She also asked for special consideration of the continued employment of Jasmine Lavender, a valued member of the OCS staff.

Parent, Sophia Trone expressed concern about the possibility of returning to distance learning for the 2020-21 school year, as this does not work for her family.

Parent, Rachael Petru expressed concern for 2020-21 budget cuts that disproportionately impact employees of color.

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Board Member, Mark Galanty reminded attendees that the Board is not able to respond directly to topics discussed during open forum unless they were previously agendaed.

Parent, Kim Rowe asked that at a future Board meeting the topic of diversity on the Board be discussed.

Finance

Ayanthy Peiris presented the April 2020 financial records and check register. The operating net income for FY 19-20 is projected to be -\$297K, which is \$316K below budget. Since the last financial report, we have had increased expenses for phone services at the Westchester campus, increased substitute contractor costs, and increased fundraising costs.

ACTION ITEM: The Board would like to review the school's phone bills for the Westchester campus through April 2020 at the next meeting.

MOTION: Laura Stoland moved to approve the April 2020 financial statements and check register. Dan Wierzba seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

Ayanthy presented the proposed 2020-21 budget to the Board. Some of the assumptions made in this proposed budget are; a total enrollment of 556 students; a 94% attendance rate; COLA of -7.29%; 60% reduction in anticipated fundraising; inclusion of PPP loan repayments; and payment of over-allocation costs. The cuts made to this proposed budget to offset the losses in revenue are; step and column increases to OCTA salaries, but a freeze in OCTA salaries beyond that; salary freeze for all non-OCTA employees; up to 8 furlough days as needed, with daily furlough rates adjusted for OCTA due to increased impact to teachers.

ACTION ITEM: The Board will review the 2020-21 budget at the July 2020 meeting and possibly make adjustments when more information is available.

MOTION: Josh Dome moved to approve the 2020-21 budget, as amended. Dan Wierzba seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the 2020-21 EPA Spending Plan. The plan shows apportionment of \$822K to be used for teacher's salaries and benefits.

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MOTION: Edward Eadon moved to approve the 2020-21 EPA Spending Plan. Mark Galanty seconded the motion. Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique Djedje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Josh Dome abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

Ayanthy presented the 2020-21 ExED CALPADS contract. This contract will allow us to shift our state reporting responsibilities in part to ExED instead of performing all of these duties in-house.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved to approve the 2020-21 ExED CALPADS contract. Sue Ingles seconded the motion. Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique Djedje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Josh Dome abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

Ayanthy presented the 2020-21 CharterSafe Contract. The Board reviewed the contract for insurance, including liability, property, and worker's compensation coverage.

MOTION: Dan Wierzba moved to approve the 2020-21 CharterSafe contract. Laura Stoland seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique Djedje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

MOTION: Josh Dome moved to move item #9 on the agenda to item #6 on the agenda. Laura Stoland seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique Djedje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

Diversity and Equity Committee

There was no report provided by committee.

Dominique Djedje asked that the Board authorize the Diversity and Equity Committee to operate as a Board led committee. She also asked that the name of the committee be changed to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. The Brown Act requirements for such a committee were also discussed.

MOTION: Dominique Djedje moved to authorize the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee to operate as a Board led committee. Edward Eadon seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique Djedje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee shall provide a monthly report to the Board and such an item will appear regularly on the agenda.

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MOTION: Dominique DjeDje moved to appoint Dominique DjeDje, Laura Stoland, Edward Eadon, Kristy Mack Fett and Stephanie Edwards to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Laura Stoland seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

MOTION: Laura Stoland moved to appoint Dominique DjeDje as Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Josh Dome seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

Director's Report

Stephanie Edwards and Kristy Mack Fett presented the June 2020 Director's Report. They shared details on the work the teachers are doing with the DEI committee on addressing antiracism in our curriculum. There are trainings scheduled for our faculty in Teaching Tolerance. The administration restated their commitment to these efforts and will have more information to share with the Board as the work continues.

The administration gave an update on the move of the Del Rey campus and Westchester campus. All school property will be stored in the underground parking area of the Panama campus as the construction project is completed.

New teacher welcoming ceremonies were held for all classes who will have a teacher who was newly hired at OCS for the 2020-21 school year. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to meet their new teacher and for the children to observe the loving handoff of the class from their former teacher.

Covid-19 Written Report

The Board reviewed a draft of the Covid-19 written report.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved to authorize our administrators to complete and submit to LAUSD the Covid-19 written report consistent with the presentation of the report made at this meeting. Dominique DjeDje seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

Conflict of Interest Code

The Board discussed the Conflict of Interest Code.

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MOTION: Josh Dome moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest Code, as amended. Zach James seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular and special Board meetings on February 6, 2020; April 2, 2020; May 7, 2020; May 12, 2020; June 5, 2020; and June 8, 2020.

MOTION: Jason Haas moved to approve the minutes from the regular and special Board meetings on February 6, 2020; April 2, 2020; May 7, 2020; May 12, 2020; June 5, 2020; and June 8, 2020. Zach James seconded the motion. Josh Dome, Jason Haas, Edward Eadon, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Sue Ingles, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Zach James, and Laura Stoland voted in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.