

Minutes-Approved
Ocean Charter School Board Meeting
September 3, 2020

Called to order by Laura Stoland and convened at 6:44pm.

Board Members Present: Laura Stoland, Jason Haas, Sue Ingles, Edward Eadon, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Tammy Stanton, and Zach James.

A quorum was present.

Also present: OCS Executive Director, Stephanie Edwards; OCS Executive Director, Kristy Mack Fett; OCS teachers Jen Liff, Amanda Siegel, Stephanie Becker, and Hanna Mehring.

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 7:08pm.

There were no actions taken during the closed session.

Open Forum

Laura Stoland shared information about an available Brown Act training being conducted by YMC later this month. She encouraged any Board member in need of the training to participate. She also announced that the Board will participate in a refresher training at the October 2020 Board meeting.

Finance

Tammy Stanton informed the Board that the school's ExEd contract does not include a July finance update. Our ExED representative, Ayanthy Peiris will present next at the October meeting with the August 2020 financial reports.

Tammy also discussed the continued participation of Finance Committee members Sue Ingles, Stephanie Edwards, Kristy Mack Fett, Nancy O'Rourke, Aly Leavitt, Dan Wierzba, Dmitri Leonov, and Debbie Tripp. She also explained the scope of service by committee members and made an appeal for anyone who wished to serve on the committee to join.

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MOTION: Tammy Stanton moved to appoint Amanda Siegel to the OCS Finance Committee. Dan Wierzba seconded the motion. Laura Stoland, Jason Haas, Sue Ingles, Edward Eadon, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, Tammy Stanton, and Zach James voted in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comment on the LCAP (Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan)

Kristy Mack Fett and Stephanie Edwards gave an update on the LCAP and the public comment process to date. There will be additional meetings throughout September to receive more public comment. The Board will meet at the end of this month to review the final draft and possibly approve the LCAP.

Parent Collective

The Parent Collective Coordinators presented their year-end report at the last Governance Committee meeting. Jason Haas provided a recap of their presentation. The Governance Committee discussed the roles of the PC coordinators and voted to recommend that the coordinator seated on the Board as the PC representative should be the fundraising coordinator. The PC will be holding elections later in September to fill two of the four coordinator positions.

Board Retreat

The Board discussed the potential agenda for the 2020-21 Board retreat. It is expected that the retreat will be held later this month. The Board will schedule the retreat at a time when they can invite Dr. Patricia Brent to participate and focus time on the antiracism workshop she is conducting with many stakeholder groups within our school community. The Board will work with her to develop the school's antiracism statement and action plan.

Stakeholder Engagement

Laura Stoland led a brainstorming session on methods to increase stakeholder engagement at OCS. Many members of the public offered their experiences with stakeholder engagement at OCS to date and identified specific areas in need of improved engagement opportunities. Some of the suggestions made included a broader use of community-wide polls and surveys, developing a structure for meaningful engagement through Parent Collective and DEIC planned events, and more participation in decision-making by teachers.

Zach James left the meeting at 8:15pm.

Director's Report

Kristy Mack Fett and Stephanie Edwards provided the director's report. They gave a recap on the first week of school, shared parent feedback about our distance learning program and the teacher's experiences thus far. We continue to plan for supply and device distribution to students in the coming weeks. There is a high volume of need for technical support and devices among students and their families.

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Our administrative team will be working with individual families to address these needs as quickly as possible.

The faculty and staff participated in professional development with Dr. Patricia Brent focused on antiracist curriculum and developing a school-wide action plan. The workshop Dr. Brent presented was very well received and the faculty and staff look forward to their continued work with her.

Kristy shared details about our attendance policies under the distance learning program and our experiences in implementing it so far this year.

Site

Jason Haas shared an update on the Panama construction project. The contractor experienced issues in receiving a delivery of concrete for the project. Although the issue has been solved, it did result in delays that may push the project completion date into November 2020.

In response to parent concerns, Kristy Mack Fett shared a report on EMF radiation at the Panama site. This report noted the measured radiation levels at the site as part of the environmental impact studies conducted at the start of the project. The report indicates that radiation levels were within minimum CV requirements.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dominique Dje Dje shared a report from a recent committee meeting. Topics covered included a review of the Executive Directors' antiracism statement and an update on affinity groups. The next DEIC meeting will be September 27, 2020 at 7pm. All community members are encouraged to participate.

OCS Admissions Preferences

Jason Haas led a discussion of the school's current admissions preferences, including the preference allowed for Short Ave eligible applicants. We are seeing a higher volume of applicants being admitted under the new Short Ave preference than we have in the past under the Braddock Dr preference. The Board will continue this discussion at a future meeting and may revise admissions preferences as needed.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the August 20, 2020 Board meeting.

MOTION: Mark Galanty moved to approve the minutes from August 20, 2020 Board meeting. Dan Wierzba seconded the motion. Laura Stoland, Jason Haas, Sue Ingles, Edward Eadon, Mark Galanty, November McIlhargey, Dominique DjeDje, Dan Wierzba, and Tammy Stanton voted in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm.