



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Minutes – October 6, 2009

Present: Jen Burke, Wendy Battles, Kim Futrell, Enroue Halfkenny, Liz Cox, Jonathan Knisely, Michael Doolittle, Frank Mitchell, Arthur Latimer (proxy) John Jessen, Joel Tolman, Ben Gardner, Betsy Sneath

Welcome: Chair recognized Joel's efforts on the Feast and saluted staff and board for the successful event. A meeting for the search committee to report to the board will be necessary later in the month.

Minutes: Michael made a motion to accept the minutes with a potential correction to be researched/confirmed and Jonathan's was the second voice. After brief discussion the board approved the minutes of the September meeting.

Handbook Policy Approvals:

Remaining policies returned for the meeting.

A non-discrimination grievance procedure provides three levels of review.

A bullying policy follows CAGE's and our procedure is in the handbook. Any complaint should be made in writing and given to Liz. There is a thorough investigation, conversation with parents, and decision in writing. The grievance procedure follows the state policy. There was a question regarding cyberbullying and a suggestion to address technology —cyberbullying— in the language.

The sexual harassment policy discussion led to discussion of the process for reporting abuse and when a third party, possibly staff from sexual abuse clinic, joins the investigation. Enroue described a protocol for forensic interview and will provide more detail or follow up material for the school committee.

Kim made a motion to adopt the policies and include them in the handbook. Wendy was the second and the board voted to approve.

Program Reports:

Community Programs— The brochure is available now and highlights open farm day partnered with adult program (rock to rock for example). There has been a good response to that format. The after school programs are well subscribed and going well; they include kids unplugged and school's out middle school interdistrict Hamden, Wintergreen, Hooker

Common Ground High School— Tricia Johnson will be attending the Fulbright Japan Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. There will be 15 educators from the US and 15 from Japan. Renewal activity continues and the state is reviewing possible Nov. dates—17, 18— for the site visit. The report is pending. There are 6 charter schools scheduled for renewal and Common Ground is first. There was some discussion of issues from the last renewal particularly around assessment.

Budget:

After several questions on the current budget snapshot and an update on the post fundraiser numbers — the event made money with some auction followup needed— the board was ready to accept the budget report.

Michael made the motion to accept the budget report and Enroue's was the second voice. The board accepted the budget report.

Development:

Joel shared some notes on the Feast event—a success in its larger format, high ticket sales, good dinner, solid auction— and the suggestions so far. Another review session was scheduled. There was also discussion on plans for individual giving campaign and training. Board reaffirmed the possibility of a \$40,000-50,000 goal for the campaign. Joel planned to contact group to identify date for training.