

Draft of BlueSky Charter School: Board Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2006 9am
1821 University Avenue Suite N178
St. Paul, MN 55104

Members in attendance: Cindy Baer, Jennifer Knutson, Paul Wasko, Martha Spires, Dennis Fazio, Julie Wicklund, Suzanne Bordeau

Others in attendance: Tom Ellis, Derek Feil, Mary Swingle, Andrea Swanson, and Heather Novak of BlueSky, Eleanor (community member/ tom's significant other)

9:05 – Call to Order

Agenda

Time limits were put on each item. Paul Wasko also added a report by Julie and himself regarding the charge of looking into Board communications between Dennis Fazio, Tom Ellis, and the public as a whole. It was moved to add Mr. Wasko's report along with the other committee reports. No objections

Task Force Committee – (Martha)

Martha Spires reported that all staff and a select group of parents were interviewed regarding the school as a whole and if they would want to serve on an Independent Task Force. After the interviews Martha recommends that 3 staff members and 2 parents be nominated to serve as the Task Force. Mary Swingle, Amanda Furth, Ana Duran of BlueSky along with Doug Nonemaker and Deb Peters as parents were presented to the board as recommendations for the Independent Task Force. Martha said that these people were picked because of willingness and Board knowledge. Martha Spires made a motion to accept Mary Swingle, Amanda Furth, Ana Duran, Doug Nonemaker, and Deb Peters to be on an Independent Task Force, to develop and implement Bylaws and clarify the governing structure of the Board as per Eugene Piccolo's memo. The motion was carried.

Charge for the Task Force

Dennis Fazio made a motion that the Board strongly suggest that the Independent Task Force hire a professional facilitator/consultant versed in school management and corporate governance to help with the board's original charge. The Board would also like the Independent Task Force to report back its progress on January 9th, 2007 and provide interim reports on December 12th, 2006 and November 14th, 2006. Progress should be reported back as well as to the process they are using. Martha would act as the Board Liaison, to get going and provide resource materials as requested. Motion Carried.

Management/Consultant Team (Suzy)

Suzy Bordeau mentioned that 3 groups of people were interviewed regarding the school's management needs and how they would be able to help us solve our issues with management details. Gary Fleishacker from MAP for Nonprofits, Phillip Penn, and Diane Heinz from the Employers Association were interviewed. It was recommended that we engage the Employers Association to help the management committee with its charge. Suzy made a motion to engage in a membership and contract with Employers Association for management consulting services. They would be given 3 to 4 areas of need/concern, and then come back with a proposal of what they would do and how much it would cost. Suzy would be in charge of contacting Diane in regards to this information and to come back to the Board with a proposal. Motion Carried.

Paul Wasko stated that this contract would incur expenses that were not budgeted for and would like to see what kind of proposals we come back with. A committee would be empowered to make a decision. Members are all available for consultations. The committee would also negotiate a proposal with Employers Association and if deemed satisfactorily they can further execute a contract. Mr. Ellis stated that Section 4.5 in the Bylaws says that the Board is not to deviate from its budget and thinks that it should be considered since this would be a deviation from the budget. Paul made a motion to empower the committee to engage Employers Association in the development of a management consulting proposal and if the proposal is accepted to execute a contract with Employers Association. The Board acknowledges that this is a deviation of the current budget. Motion Carried.

Julie's report after talking with MDE and Keith Lester

Julie reported that she has talked with Gloria Kibble and Keith Lester our school sponsor regarding the letter that Eugene gave us at the last meeting. Julie could not reach Gloria from MDE, but did write an email to her. Keith was very supportive, but he got the memo and has talked to Eugene and asked questions. He wants to attend a meeting. Tom has also been updating Mr. Lester and hopes that the relationship between the schools continues to strengthen. Keith said that he would be willing to help in anyway he can as he is concerned about his sponsor relationship with BlueSky. The Board has also asked for a report back after Mrs. Kibble is contacted and responds.

Paul and Julie Committee regarding Board Communications

Julie explained the process that she and Paul went through to solve communication problems between the Director and Board Chair. Dennis and Tom both provided their information on what they felt needed to be looked at. Both Dennis and Tom were talked to over the phone a number of times. Julie drafted a letter of both Paul and her findings and read it out loud to the public. After the letter was read, it was stated that Julie and Paul are not attorneys and if this would lead to legal action it was recommended that a professional look into this information or they deal with it themselves. Paul recommended that further discussions be deferred to the next meeting however he stated he was prepared and had motions drafted that both members step aside, and/or developing ground rules and sanctions to move forward. All action was deferred until the next meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Paul Wasko and with no additional discussion the meeting was adjourned at 10:40. The next meeting will be held November 14, 2006 at 9am.