

Independent Task Force Agenda
Friday October 27 2006 5:00pm
1821 University Avenue W Suite N-178
St. Paul, MN

Amanda called to order at 5:00pm

It was decided by vote that Debbie Peters will be Chair of the Task Force and Ana Duran secretary, both agreed to do it.

Amanda proposed that a background check should be in file for every member in the task force. Doug and Debbie already filled out the proper papers to have this done as soon as possible.

1. Set standards for meeting operations

a. Adopt Roberts Rules of Order

Amanda proposed to use this rules as guides for our present meeting, all agreed.

b. Adhere to Minnesota Statutes and Rules

As Amanda was starting to explain her idea about the BlueSky bylaws and compare them against the leadership high school bylaws, Dough asked why or how is rewriting the bylaws had to do anything with Mr. Piccolo's letter, to him the issue goes deeper than just rewriting bylaws.

The discussion started with this question, one of the solutions offered by one of the members (Amanda) was the dissolution of the current board and start fresh. Another board member (Mary) suggested that we should rewrite the bylaws to avoid conflict of interests within the board that affect staff members as well. There was a discussion of the need to have board members that are experienced and knowledgeable about what it takes to be in the board, in this way there would not be any conflicts and the school could move forward. We acknowledged Tom's great job into making the school growth a reality, as well as a great emphasis of bylaws that are clear to avoid misinterpretation or interpreting them according to convenience.

The Chair of the task force agreed on the board dissolution, as well as to get elections going, where there will be an explanation of responsibilities for futures candidates as well as what will be expected from them.

There was a mention (Amanda) that there will be training for people that participate in boards; the dates are November 13 and 16 offered by MACS. Dough also mentioned that we might have to investigate this more deeply before giving our recommendation of dismissing the current board. He suggested that we might have to interview each board member and staff maybe even staff that is not currently in the board.

Debbie agreed to talk to Mr. Piccolo and make sure if we can just proceed with the decision to dissolve the board based on observation or if we should investigate before recommending this. If he says that we need investigation we will interview board members, after that is done then we can carry the motion of dismissing the board.

If the current board is dismissed there was a discussion about having new members trained and all ready to go by January 1st as well as for the new board to revise bylaws. There was an discussion to have an emergency meeting regarding the Task Force's suggestion to the board.

There was discussion as to who will be in the board while we find new members; there was a thought of the Task Force becoming the Interim board. I moved that Debbie contacted Eugene Piccolo's and inquire whter or not we have sufficient evidence to recommend current board dismissal or if further investigation is required. Dough second motion.

Motion carried

There was a discussion about when to hold elections for new members which was agreed to have them held before Nov 13th with the intention of mailing ballots along with grades next week as one of the ideas of having parents involved to vote for new members. There was an agreement about adopting current bylaws for the Interim board.

There was a proposed motion for the interim board to organize elections as well as to revise the bylaws, agreed on 5 members for the board with 3 teachers. They all should attend training that Amanda found on December 4 and 6th which will give us more time to organize and find candidates.

- c. Operate in the spirit of the Open Meeting Law (Open Meeting Law http://www.mncharterschools.org/MACSServices_governanceopenmtg.htm)

Debbie mentioned that next time we should notify families and staff of future Task Force's meetings 72 hrs before the date.

Following open meeting laws giving 3 days notice we worked on an agenda after recommendation was given and board stepped down.

1. Current board will step down
2. Task Force will act as interim board
3. Interim board will act under current school bylaws
4. Interim board will oversee elections no later than Dec 1
5. Thank board for their work

We will contact Keith Lester about the task force recommendation and ask him if he would come to board meeting.

The motion for schedule was approved, motion carried

Meeting Adjourned by Debbie 7:00pm?

2. Address the bylaws
 - a. Objective 1: clarify the governance structure and develop expectations for board members, job descriptions, election procedures and operational policies for the board.
 - b. Objective 2: assure that the bylaws comply with MN law.
 - i. Resource 1: MN Charter School Law
Charter School Handbook: Goverance - <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/school-change/handbook/running.htm>

ii. Resource 2: MACS: Governance

<http://www.mncharterschools.org/resourcelibrary.htm>

iii. Resource 3: US Charter Schools -

http://www.uscharterschools.org/pub/uscs_docs/r/bylaws.htm

3. Task Force Recommendation