Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 17, 2007
ISM School Campus, Library
1720 Yosemite Street
Seaside, CA 93955
Closed Session—6:00 p.m.
Open Session—7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Session 6:07 P.M.
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll call
      ☑ Plasha Fielding Will (PFW) ☑ Paul Gaucher (PaG) ☑ Prashant Gupta (PrG)
      ☑ Chris Hasegawa (CH) ☑ Bobbie Infelise (BI) ☑ Robert Lee (RL)
      ☑ Sean Madden (SM) ☑ Grant Miles (GM) ☑ Alastair Rodd (AR)
      ☑ Joanne Storkan (JS) ☑ John Tilley (JT) ☑ Mike Whilden (MW)
   Administration present:
      ☑ Larry Cummins (LC) ☑ Lou Perske (LP)

2. Closed Session 6:11 P.M.
   In accordance with Government Code, Sections 54950 - 54962, the Board must disclose the items to be discussed in closed session.
   This may be done by referring to the closed session agenda items as they are listed on the closed session agenda or by number of letter on the agenda. After closed session, the Board shall report out actions taken in closed session as required by law, including members’ vote and abstention. The Board will meet in closed session from 4:05 – 5:00 pm.
   A. Public Appointment:
   B. Public Employment
   C. Conference with Real Property Negotiator
      Property: 1720 Yosemite Street, Seaside
      Negotiating Parties: John Tilley/Paul Gaucher
      Under Negotiation: Terms and Conditions

3. Open Session 7:04 P.M.
   A. Call to order
   B. Roll call
      ☑ Plasha Fielding Will (PFW) ☑ Paul Gaucher (PaG) ☑ Prashant Gupta (PrG)
      ☑ Chris Hasegawa (CH) ☑ Bobbie Infelise (BI) ☑ Robert Lee (RL)
      ☑ Sean Madden (SM) ☑ Grant Miles (GM) ☑ Alastair Rodd (AR)
      ☑ Joanne Storkan (JS) ☑ John Tilley (JT) ☑ Mike Whilden (MW)
   Administration present:
      ☑ Larry Cummins (LC) ☑ Lou Perske (LP)
   C. Report of action taken in closed session
   D. Hearings and petitions
      Notice: The public may make comments related to items within the Board’s jurisdiction, which are not on the agenda. The Board may not respond except to ask clarifying questions. The length of comments may be limited to 3 minutes by the Chairman and the total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The public may make comments regarding items on the agenda at the time that item is considered by the Board
   E. Consent
      (1) Approval of minutes from September 14 board meeting
         Moved PaG. Seconded MW. Approved unanimously.
      (2) Approval of minutes from August 20 meeting tabled until October meeting.
   F. Correspondence
      None
   G. Action Items
      (1) Approval of Kasavan Pope (KPMG) as auditors for 2007-08
         Moved SM. Seconded JT. Approved 9-0. AR abstained due to lack of historical information.
      (2) Take necessary steps to create Independent Study option to Mitigate the Impact of Lost ADA due to “Unexcused Absences” of ISM Students
         Moved AR. Seconded JS.
         Discussion: AR indicated that we lose about 100 ADA or $3,000 due to family travel, and that his read of ed code indicates that we can authorize independent study if we follow certain requirements. MW contended that the effort versus the current loss is difficult to justify given the amount of
paperwork involved plus the heightened scrutiny of charter schools in this area given that this has been an area of concern elsewhere. LP indicated that the absences seldom come in 5+ day chunks. PrG suggested that it is a philosophical issue. AR pointed out flexibility of code. MW expressed concern regarding perception issues. SM pointed out that there are two separate issues—ADA makeup of work v. makeup of work for grading purposes. PrG recommended that this be addressed in strategic planning as a philosophical issue. Tabled pending strategic planning discussion.

H. Information/Discussion Items

(1) Head of School Report – Larry Cummins (responding to various board questions)
Issues trailing off in areas of tardies and discipline due to high visibility of administration. Had visit with Dan Albert, who requested that no one visit the Hayes School site without his knowledge. Spent half an hour with the district business manager along with Lorraine Williby. Has visited very classroom on a drop-in basis. Now in goalsetting phase with teaching staff, which includes professional development. Next will be formal evaluation with writeup. Discipline issues relatively small; middle school kids afraid of him. Has been one suspension based on steps in disciplinary code. Kids know when coming in that LC is supporting teachers. Counselor has been wonderful. Working to get everyone on the same page with curriculum, e.g. First Steps reading program; some resist, wanting to use their own things; will take time to overcome; trying to foster a whole school attitude rather than K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Having an event at Monterey Beach hotel on Friday, September 28. Amazed at how loose things were administratively. About 7-8 percent of students require counseling services. May counsel children out of school when we don’t have the right services.

(2) Finance committee report – Grant Miles/Rob Lee
Covered Friday 9/14 at special meeting.

(3) Development committee report – Paul Gaucher/Plasha Will
Parent fair share current: $76,000 cash in hand and another $14,000 pledged; 83 families participating with 111 students; of those who have given, the average is $792 per student; not all entered into system. No phonecalls yet; call campaign will start 9/23. PFW suggested changing form so that monthly amount to cover fair share is clear. PrG asked when mandatory meeting will be. PaG feels that we are behind last year in terms of momentum.

(4) Strategic planning committee report – Sean Madden
School identity old and new distributed (available upon request), discussed, and endorsed by the board as a whole. Initial membership for Strategic Advisory Team distributed, discussed, and endorsed by the board as a whole. Changes to strategic plan concepts and timeline distributed as part of StratPlan document (available online at http://www.ismonterey.org/board_of_directors.html) and discussed. First SAT meeting scheduled for Wednesday 9/26. Will begin to define strategic commitments and outcomes. Still aiming for final board approval of a plan in January.

I. New Business
None

4. Possible Closed Session
None

5. Adjournment
Next regular meeting changed to October 22, 2007 due to fall break