Board Meeting Minutes

ISM School Campus, Library
1720 Yosemite Street
Seaside, CA 93955

Monday, February 25, 2008
Closed Session—6:00 p.m.
Open Session—7:00 p.m.

1. Open Session 6:00 P.M.
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll call
      - Plasha Fielding Will (PFW)
      - Chris Hasegawa (CH)
      - Sean Madden (SM)
      - Chris Steinbruner (CS)
      - Mike Whilden (MW)
      - Paul Gaucher (PaG)
      - Grant Miles (GM)
      - Joanne Storkan (JS)
      - Prashant Gupta (PrG)
      - Robert Lee (RL)
      - Alastair Rodd (AR)
      - John Tilley (JT)
      - Larry Cummins (LC)
      - Lou Perske (LP)

2. Closed Session 6:05 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 or 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 6:05-7:00 P.M.
   A. Public Appointment
   B. Public Employment
   C. Conference with Real Property Negotiator
      Property: 1720 Yosemite Street, Seaside
      Negotiating Parties: John Tilley/Paul Gaucher

3. Open Session 7:00 P.M.
   A. Call to order
   B. Roll call
      - Plasha Fielding Will (PFW)
      - Chris Hasegawa (CH)
      - Sean Madden (SM)
      - Chris Steinbruner (CS)
      - Mike Whilden (MW)
      - Paul Gaucher (PaG)
      - Grant Miles (GM)
      - Joanne Storkan (JS)
      - Prashant Gupta (PrG)
      - Robert Lee (RL)
      - Alastair Rodd (AR)
      - John Tilley (JT)
      - Larry Cummins (LC)
      - Lou Perske (LP)
   C. Report of action taken in closed session
      (1) None
   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.
      (1) Petition by teachers Kim Reimer (KR) and Maren Dinsmore (MD) regarding kindergarten staff structure, presented by KR. Proposal to have three fulltime credentialed kindergarten teachers rather than two teachers plus an aide. This would increase integration and understanding. Kindergarten students have unique needs. The necessary teaching talent is here now. The timing is right because we are at a point where we have no further capacity for current specialist teachers to take on additional sections. General discussion ensued. LC praised the current kindergarten team of KR and MD. MW asked how many hours of specialist time get used by kindergarten; KR indicated 6. PrG asked how many teachers will be qualified to take on the coordinator position in future years if KR leaves; KR indicated that many early childhood teachers could. PrG asked about costs. AR asked about the focus, socioemotionally; KR talked about need for attention and minimized transitions. PaG asked about fit with strategic plan and how this proposal fits with our overall development; LC indicated it fits in with the curricular portion and the international portion, and that there's intent toward a longer term commitment from the current teachers involved. MD indicated that no one could replace KR.
because she is incredibly capable, yet we can find someone who could effectively take over the role in the future if necessary.

(2) Lorraine Williby (LW) indicated that she needs board approval of second interim report by March 15. PrG responded that we can schedule a special board meeting to approve the report when ready.

E. Consent
(1) Approval of minutes from January 21, 2008 board meeting, as amended.
Moved MW. Seconded RL. Approved 8-0. AR abstained due to absence from meeting.

(2) Approval of minutes from January 26, 2008 board meeting, as amended.
Moved MW. Seconded PG. Approved 9-0.

F. Correspondence
(1) None

G. Action Items
(1) Approval of proposal to close wait list loophole in admissions process
MW explained that some students have gained access to kindergarten due to higher priority in the lottery gained by being on the waitlist the prior year; suggested closing that loophole by only giving the priority for the next grade level, i.e. a student on the waitlist for kindergarten would have a higher preference for 1st grade the next year but not for kindergarten.
No motion made. MW will draft a motion for a future meeting.

(2) Approval of proposed Kindergarten staff structure
Motion: Replace the aide position and specialist hours for kindergarten with a certificated teaching position if the net financial difference in total salary expense is under $10,000 annually.
CS moved. RL seconded.
AR asked about financial implications; CS indicated that the projected $6,000 per year is within the leeway given the administration for salary expenditures. General discussion ensued regarding actual cost and number of positions involved.
Motion approved unanimously.

(3) Approval of before-school care program proposal
No motion made.
LC presented proposal (copy available upon request). JS asked for clarification on current dropoff program; LC indicated that students may be dropped off any time after 7:35am. JS suggested that we have to rethink this entire program. SM suggested offering the program to those who have paid their fair share rather than at a charge. AR suggested that this is the equivalent of a district charging for busing service. General discussion ensued on organizational and funding options.
Approval of LEAP report
Motion: Approve the LEAP report as written.
Moved PaG. Seconded JS.
LW presented report (copy available upon request). General discussion ensued.
Approved 8-0. SM abstained, having not yet read the report in its entirety.

(4) Approval letter for proposal to Monterey Peninsula Foundation – County authorization to sign orders
Motion to approve the letter.
Moved JT. Seconded RL. Approved unanimously.

(5) Appointment of new Officers
Following general discussion, the board agreed on the following slate of nominees: Sean Madden, Chair; Mike Whilden, Vice Chair; Chris Steinbruner, Treasurer; Alastair Rodd, Secretary. Current officers will begin orienting these nominees to the respective positions.

H. Information/Discussion Items
(1) Head of School Report – Larry Cummins
Written report available upon request. AR asked about incidents of discipline; LC indicated they are going down. PaG asked about enrollment; LC indicated we are at 359 with one open spot. PrG asked about hiring progress; SM asked about overall staff retention; LC indicated that we should expect a report from LP at the next board meeting.

(2) Finance committee report – Grant Miles/Rob Lee/Chris Steinbruner
LW indicated that categorical block grant money will be reduced by 6 percent retroactively this year (6% of $500/ADA = approximately $10,000). Tom Woodruff has been out to visit our school, and the district has more closely scrutinized our interim reports. Staff sick leave and PTO now being monitored. PrG asked if we have visibility into the cut in state funding next year; LW indicated that
the prediction is 2 percent. CS asked how often we see financial statements; LW indicated that she can do them as requested. AR proposed a programmatic representation of the budget that would provide a clearer picture of expenses related to each program component; general discussion ensued.

(3) Development committee report – John Tilley/Plasha Will/Paul Gaucher
PaG distributed family fair share report: $180,101 received to date; $27,860 pledged. 165 of 251 families have given; 12 have pledged; 74 have given nothing. General discussion of what needs to be done next to motivate further giving.

I. New Business
(1) None

4. Possible Closed Session
   A. None

5. Adjournment 10:06 P.M.
   Moved PaG. Approved unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting: March 31, 2008