



Minutes: Ridgeview Classical Schools Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2013 @ 5:00PM, Room #208

1800 S. Lemay, Fort Collins, CO

Agenda Item

Action

Who

CTO/Pledge of Allegiance, 5:09PM

Present: Principal: Mr. Hild, Principal Elect: Mr. Anderson, Assist. Principal: Mr. Carpine, President: Kristina Menon, VP: Lisa Hoffman, Treasurer: Dan Nygaard, Members: Paul Heyliger, Fred Wagner, Mr. Anderson, Others: Mr. Tim Smith, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Nauman, Mr. Moran (Mr. Smith, Mr. Nauman and Mr. Moran left prior to the end of the meeting.)

Review and adoption of agenda

Motion to adopt consent agenda with addition of Community comments at the beginning of the agenda to allow student Mr. Moran to make a short statement:

Moved: Fred
Second: Paul
Vote: Unanimous

Community Comments

Brendon Moran: Mr. Brendon Moran made a short presentation regarding the Faculty/Student Basketball Game. He and fellow student Mr. Austin Bail had heard the game was to be cancelled this year due to lack of volunteer effort to put the event together. They have volunteered to step in to help, and have been looking for venues and ways to increase participation and interest. They would like to include a charity aspect as well.

Reports

Principal:

Mr. Hild reported that all is well. The school hosted two groups of visitors during the past month. The first was a school from Denver (Our Lady of Lourdes) who sent their entire faculty. They were charmed by the students. The second visit was from the Daniels Fund which also went very well. Ridgeview welcomes these guests and feels it is beneficial for both students and faculty to have visitors. Many members of Caprock Academy in Grand Junction will be coming for Humanities Day. Mr. Hild is also conducting interviews (there are no faculty openings at this time). He attended a PSD School Board meeting where Ridgeview was honored for being in the top 8% of schools in the state. College Advising is working on a new four year planning sheet to better serve our high school students. Madrigals and Humanities Day will take place in the next month.

Curriculum:

Nothing additional from last month. The three new electives have begun.

Homework:

No concerns.

Assist. Principal:

Mr. Carpine reported that he is getting ready for mandatory standardized testing. Our 4th grade class has been selected for NAEP (National Assessment of Education Process) testing this year. In the upper school, he has seen a few issues with dress code after the Christmas Break, and will be issuing more pink slips to address the situation. The Madrigal Dinner, Humanities Day and the Spelling Bee are some of the upcoming events.

RCI:

Mr. Anderson reported RCI has hired the last apprentice of the year. The other apprentices have been switched to new mentors for the remainder of the year in order to broaden their training and increase their employment opportunities. They are currently working with two schools, and have been asked to review a science curriculum.

Safety & Security: One issue was reported; Mr. Carpine has reviewed and taken the appropriate actions. PSD released a statement concerning their efforts at improving school security. Mr. Carpine reported that all the additional steps PSD will be taking have always been in place at Ridgeview. In addition, we have several parent volunteers who are law officers, and who are resources for the school. Mr. Carpine has invited two of them to do a full assessment of the school's security. The first Code Red drill has been scheduled.

Student Services: Mrs. Hayhurst did not attend, however Mr. Hild reported that there was nothing new.

President: Mrs. Menon said she would address her topics at different points in the agenda.

Vice President: Mrs. Hoffman reported that she spoke with Mrs. Miller about assisting with finding old employees who are due refunds from PERA. She has requested Mr. Seiple's graphics art class work on some blank thank-you cards for the school to use. The Wikipedia page is at a basic point. It is difficult to add additional information as anything positive is immediately removed. As for the 'vandalism' reported by Wiki on the school's IP, Mr. Shubert investigated and Mr. Carpine followed up with discipline measures for those involved.

Treasurer: Mr. Nygaard reported that all financials are up to date. There will be an extra \$6000 charge incurred for preparing 990 tax forms. This was a form we should not have to complete due to our Public School status, however the IRS decided we were required to submit it anyway. He also met with RCI and resolved the discrepancy between RCI and RCS. No money will change hands and the account will be closed. Money will be transferred from the rental fund to zero out the account.

Dr. Heyliger: Nothing at this time.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Wagner noted that the website board pictures are not up to date. He also found a door where students were coming in which was marked exit only. Mr. Carpine will fix the sign as it is a door students are allowed to come in. He also reported that having a Jr. ROTC program was an advantage when joining the military. The difficulty comes in that there must be 70 students to support a program. The board is supportive, and hopes he will be able to work with a district school to start a program for our students to participate in.

Teachers: Mr. Tim Smith reported that he will be working on the food for the Madrigal dinner this week. In addition, he has much of the work done regarding Humanities Day which takes place on February 2nd. There is no cost, food is potluck, a keynote speaker is scheduled as well as presenters. The Whole Foods Bag Credit Program for Ridgeview will begin on January 21st. Whole Foods will donate reusable bags for our parents and teachers. Whole Foods is excited to work with us, and Ridgeview is looking at ways to showcase the school. Mrs. Reynolds reminded everyone that they can buy Whole Foods gift cards via the SCRIP program and then reload them online (both parents and the school benefit from this program.) Whole Foods is also handing out Humanities Day fliers at the store.

Committees: SAC committee: Mr. Carpine reported that no grievances have been filed. The committee has reviewed the two annual surveys and will be presenting them to the Board for final approval. Small changes have been made to make them more useful.

PR committee: Nothing new.

Development committee: Mrs. Menon reported the online donation is one week away from going live.

Technology committee: Interviews of teachers are in process.

Monthly Business

Enrollment/Lottery Report – The registration forms for next year were handed out early this year. We have a 100% confirmation rate from the elementary school, which has never happened before. So far, only six students have indicated that they will not be returning from the Upper School. Parents of

non-returning students have been contacted and interviewed for reasons for leaving the school. There will be two informational meetings both in January and February to coincide with the PSD advertisement brochure. The Kindergarten lottery will be pulled on February 9.

Facilities – Mr. Carpine reported that several housekeeping activities occurred over the break, including painting and floor waxing. The gym had its first maintenance with positive results. A light bar has also been installed in the gym which will remove the need to put scaffolding in for special events.

Policy violations – None

Volunteer hours – Volunteer hours for December totaled 1286, with 565 Board hours logged.

Policy Business –

No new policy business. Policy review and cleanup will continue in February's meeting.

Finances –

Review of Monthly Financials: The Board reviewed November financials. They were also presented with a finalized budget containing the new PPR number as well as additional expenditures for the purchase of Little Bears and the additional tax filings. The unrestricted reserves are about \$1.1 Million. We do anticipate having to use some of the reserves this year to pay for annual expenses. There was some question of the actual purchase price of the LB facility as presented, however the number was correct.

Motion to approve finalized budget with accompanying appropriations with Mr. Nygaard to verify the LB purchase price to ensure accuracy:

Moved: Dan
Second: Paul
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion Items

Health Care Mandate Update: Mrs. Hoffman reported that she has contacted Lorez Meinhold from the State. We will be holding a conference call to discuss current requirements for charter schools. Mrs. Miller reported that the option of splitting the school into two charters will probably not work. The Wall Street Journal reported that there is a new requirement that our health care plans provide insurance for worker dependents. We currently provide this, however we do not pay for it. It is unclear how the government will interpret this. It is also very likely we will have to cut all part time workers to 29 hours per week which will negatively affect our staff. Mrs. Miller and the Board are working to minimize the negative impact on all employees.

Meeting Agendas: Per state statute, each year the board must vote on the posting of meeting agendas.

Motion to keep the posting of Board Meeting Agendas the same as last year:

Moved: Dan
Second: Paul
Vote: Unanimous

Humanities Day: Mr. Tim Smith covered this topic under teacher discussion.

Little Bears Update: Mr. Carpine reported that LB vacated the property on January 7 without giving us a 30-day notice. Technically, by contract, we are entitled for the full month's rent, so he asked for guidance from the board regarding what to charge. The board felt the lost time for the school was equal to one additional week, so it was decided to ask for a half month rent to cover this lost time. Mr. Carpine is in the process of getting bids for initial repairs. There is an additional issue in that the city does not believe a daycare functions under the same

use as our school, so RCS will need to go before a different planning department to make the change. The city clarified that lot restrictions are not determined by footprint, but by FAR (Floor Area Ratio) which includes all square footage in a building. The school will actually lose FAR if the two lots are combined, so will not seek to re-plat the properties. With current rules, we can add an additional approximate 7500 square feet to the LB property. This can be either in the form of a second floor or more first floor footage.

Other: Mrs. Petterson has asked for an allocation of up to \$1000 to purchase a software package (ePrep) which will allow SAT/ACT test prep for those Junior students who wish to take advantage of the opportunity. The package works on a credit basis, is flexible, and can be used over several years.

Motion to keep appropriate up to \$1000 for the initial purchase of ePrep credits:

Moved: Paul
Second: Lisa
Vote: Unanimous

Northside Classical Academy in Atlanta has asked Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Schunk to be on their Advisory Council.. Mr. Hild and the board had no objections and congratulate them for the honor.

Community Comments:

Mrs. Reynolds said she was asked by another parent (Mrs. Jacobs) to express concern over the RCI/RCS accounting issue with regards to how it was being handled. She asked if this was 'standard operating procedure'. Dr. Heyliger assured her that the issue has been examined and reviewed since August, and that the decision was not made lightly even though the discrepancy was a relatively small amount. She also asked about the status of a standardized form for parents to leave comments upon leaving the school because she felt we were not receiving feedback. Mrs. Menon reported that Mrs. Schunk has been contacting every departing family as a matter of procedure, but that not all parents returned calls or wanted to leave comments once they made the decision to leave. Additionally, Mrs. Hoffman pointed out that the reasons for the six students leaving had, in fact, been reported earlier in the meeting by Mrs. Menon, and she reviewed the information one more time. Finally, Mrs. Reynolds asked if we had considered allowing teachers to voluntarily arm themselves via concealed carry permits. Mrs. Menon replied that guns were prohibited from all K-12 school properties by Colorado State law (except by law enforcement personnel).

Next Board meeting will take place on 2/7/13.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30PM