

French and Montessori Education, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting, December 15th, 2007
Minutes

The meeting was called by Carlos Zervigon, and was publicized by posted notice at the school, notice on the school website, notice in the Rare Bird newsletter, and notice on the Rare Bird list service.

The meeting was held in the cafeteria at Audubon's Broadway campus, 428 Broadway Ave., New Orleans.

Board members present: Carlos Zervigon (Chairman), Edwin Shorty Jr. (Vice Chairman), Ken Ducote, Laura Watts (Treasurer), James Reiss (Secretary), Teddy Locke, Allen Miller, Olivier Brochenin, and Rev. Cornelius Tilton

Board members excused: Wynn Seeman and Gary Allen Wood.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

Attachments:

Agenda

Minutes for the June 16th, 2007 meeting of the Board

Administration report

Approval of November Minutes:

Teddy moved to approve the November minutes. Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Members to FAME Board for 2008:

Edwin moved to accept the recommendations presented by the Nominations Committee regarding membership to the FAME Inc. board for in 2008. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Report:

Revised 07-08 budget is attached. Revenue and expenses had to be reduced due to the decrease in the actual number of students vs. budgeted numbers. In addition, Special Revenue was separated from the GOB due to the fact that most of the special revenue finds were one time allocations which are not disbursed on a regular basis, but are reimbursable. As funds are received they would be allocated back into the reserve account.

Ken moved to accept revised budget. James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration report:

French Update:

The French 5th grade parents are continuing their meetings to plan a trip to France. The fundraisers held to date have been very successful. They have raised over \$8,000.

Montessori Update:

The Montessori program had a visit from Dr. Gary Tears of Perth Montessori in Australia. We have now established a wonderful international relationship with another Montessori school and will continue to maintain a dialogue with Dr. Tears. Montessori parent meetings have been very successful. We have started a book club where parents are reading books on Montessori education.

Ellen has included books on pre-school and elementary education in a Montessori School for the board members. Montessori training for our upper elementary (4th-6th grade) teachers has been confirmed for this summer. Janice & Dawn had their final site visit with Jonathan Wolf. Jonathan also conducted a community wide presentation on Montessori education.

Broadway Campus:

A Tulane fellow will assist ACS with writing a handbook for charter care, arts reach and athletics.

ACS received 29 laser printers that were purchased through district using Title I funds. Most of the classrooms now have printers.

Ms. Joicelyn Trufant has started as our new Pre-K Montessori teacher. She is replacing Ralph McDonald who retired after many years of service to the Audubon community. Ms. Trufant is a certified Montessori teacher and actually worked at Audubon during the early days of the program. She also worked as a substitute teacher for a time after Hurricane Katrina.

Technology:

Two teachers attended training on Blackboard, which is a new program that will be available to our teachers beginning in January. This will allow teachers to put detailed lessons online, including Powerpoint presentations. In addition, the district is sending over laptops and smartboards for two state of the art classrooms at the school. With current inventory of computers breaking down on a regular basis, the school needs to invest approximately \$150,000 in new computers, promethean boards and accessories.

Fundraising Update:

The number of commitments for service on the school's fundraising board grows. We are nearing the time to hire a development director and/or grant writer to assist this board once it is formed.

Discussion of Facilities:

Ken discussed the School Facilities Master Plan, which covers all local public schools: RSD, Orleans Parish and Charter schools. The plan is being coordinated with the plans of

Dr. Blakely's office. The Plan will deal with the issues of facilities planning, capital improvements and maintenance. Ken informed the board that assessment part of the facilities plan includes physical condition and educational adequacy. Facilities standards to evaluate and design projects are being developed, and the professional staff will be asked to assist with that. A newsletter will be distributed through the schools to discuss the plan. Community involvement is important and community forums will be held to discuss school sites. The next meeting discussing Audubon's two campuses will be at McMain at noon on Saturday the 19th. Ken then updated the board on the state's QuickStart program.

Carlos expressed the need for the formation of a facilities committee to stay on top of the needs of both campus sites.

Discussion of Charter Revision:

Carlos will chair the charter revision committee. The committee will have a consulting lawyer. Allen, Olivier and Edwin will serve on the committee and will begin the process by correcting typos and any found grammatical errors. Mike Brantly will serve as parent rep.

James moved to hold next meeting on Jan 26th. Allen seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Laura moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25. Teddy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.