

Seven Hills Charter Public School Board of Trustees
Minutes
January 16, 2006

Welcome

Meeting began at 6:15 pm. In attendance: Krista Piazza, Cindy Krackovic, Lee Cordaro, Jim Diggins, Dorothy Escribano. Andrew Feeland and Donna Lemoyne. Rebecca Blodgett chaired the meeting in Carlton Watson's absences. Also present: David Rosario and Josh Coyne from the Tech Department. Minutes taken by Beth Gillis. Ms. Piazza requested that the agenda be altered so that the Tech Department could make their presentation regarding the Amelia Peabody Grant Award first.

Minutes

Minutes of the December 5, 2006 SHCPS Board of Trustees Meeting presented for approval.

Motion to approve: Lee Cordaro

Second: Jim Diggins

All members voted in favor of the motion.

Public Comments

The BOT has allotted 15 minutes to those individuals from the community or staff who has notified the Board in advance that they would like to speak on a topic that may or may not be on the agenda.

1) Presentations

- a) School Improvement Plan – Presented by Ms. Piazza. The report provides a central analysis of all aspects of the school including school climate, parent involvement, community connections, professional development, academic programming and student achievement. A mid – year achievement report based on the mock mcas, DIBELS, and CBM's was shared, along with action plans.

Schoolwide areas for improvement in Math are:

- Fractions, decimals, percents – comparing values, converting
- Unit Conversions
- Geometry – vocabulary, identifying and articulating discrete differences
- Continuing patterns
- Organizing and manipulating data using various forms of charts, graphs and tables

Schoolwide areas for improvement in ELA are:

- Finding information in text or drawing conclusions based on textual information
- Poetry interpretation (particular areas for struggle are figurative language and author's purpose)
- Vocabulary in context – selecting from multiple choice options
- Grammatical Definitions – inconsistencies in knowledge of terms

- b) FY08 Calendar, Preliminary discussion – Teacher contract is currently for 200 days. The proposed 2007-2008 calendar will reduce the days to 195 but require commitment to a certain number of evening and family events. (This was the case last year as well and feedback from staff was positive.) Last year's calendar year ended earlier and received many parent comments since summer camps had not yet begun. The 2007-2008 calendar would reduce full days of professional development and change to smaller, intensive team meetings with more

meaningful exercises. The calendars of other area schools are taken into consideration when planning the Seven Hills schedule since many of the students have brothers and sisters attending other schools and parents must coordinate many calendars. Some staff are interested in pursuing year round schooling or creative calendar options but the board agreed that as long as our students need to attend other high schools, we should try to be consistent with the sending districts to make it easier for families who have children in various schools. Ms. Piazza will continue to work with the staff to finalize the calendar and present a draft for approval at the next meeting.

2) Board Report

- a) Board recruitment – Efforts continue.
- b) Sub committee status update:
 - Academic Achievement--Lee and Dorothy – Meeting with Ms. Piazza in December resulted in a completed parent survey. Formatting remains.
 - Organizational Viability--Donna and Carlton
 - Faithfulness to Charter--Rebecca and Jim
Satisfaction survey design update

3) Old Business

- a) Principal selection process: Advertising and collection of resumes continues. Several responses have been received but continued effort is needed to build a more substantial pool. The board discussed the advantages and hindrances of using a search firm. Ms. Piazza will investigate further and report at the next board meeting.

4) New Business

- a) February Retreat: Status of Agenda – Ms. Piazza and Ms. Blodgett will prepare an agenda and distribute at a later date.
- b) Effectiveness of Mock MCAS – Ms. Piazza reported that the original intent of the Mock MCAS was to identify mid year strengths and weaknesses to allow for time for targeted intervention and to familiarize students with the test taking experience. However, last year, the state mandated testing at every grade level (3 and up). This has not only afforded students more opportunity to be familiar with testing formats and protocols but it also took away much more instructional time due to increased testing and it delayed the turn around time for the schools to receive the results, thus delaying start of action planning and the implementation of interventions. At this time, the staff would like to consider the elimination of the Mock MCAS testing. The board agreed that Ms. Piazza should pursue this line of thinking with the staff as long as other measures are in place. Ms. Piazza spoke about DIBELS, GRADE, SRI and curriculum based testing in reading, Yearly Progress Pro, CBM and curriculum related testing in math and the related progress monitoring components. Further measures should be discussed in the areas of social studies and science.
- c) Honor Roll Criteria, Initial Discussion – Current policy states that if a student's average of core subjects is 90% or better, s/he qualifies for High Honors; 80% or better is Honors. This year, for the first time, there were some flukes. Students maintained high grades in some areas, flunked others and still maintained honor roll since the recognition is based on overall average, not individual grades. It was suggested that the criteria be revised to consider grades in each class rather than a percentage of all grades. The Board agreed that a loophole has been identified and that the policy would need to be changed. Ms. Piazza will work with the staff to draft a proposed change in wording of the policy and will make recommendations as to the timeline for implementing the change.

- d) Approval of Technology Purchase under Amelia Peabody Grant Award \$122K -- Josh Coyne and David Rosario from the Tech Department presented their suggestions for technology for the board's approval (refer to handout). All areas covered in the handout would be purchased using the \$122K grant awarded by the Amelia Peabody Fund. The Tech department is requesting approval to move forward with vendor negotiations to make the final selection by the end of the week. Warrantee, services and battery life will be key to determining the final choice. Mr. Feeland reported that WPI has a managed wireless system available. He will investigate and report whether WPI plans to sell the system or if the college may be willing to donate to support Seven Hills.

Motion to approve: Dorothy Escibano

Second: Jim Diggins

All members voted in favor of the motion.

5) Financial Report

- a) Personnel Update
- b) Enrollment Report as of January 5, 2007 : Enrolled 671, ADM 686, waitlist 138
- c) Cash Balances: November 2006
- d) November Balance Sheet and P/L
- e) FY07 Budget Revision

Financial reports were presented and the budget revision reviewed by Ms. Krackovic. There were not questions and motion to except was made.

Motion to approve: Andrew Feeland

Second: Lee Cordaro

All members voted in favor of the motion.

Motion to adjourn: Andrew Feeland

Second: Jim Duggin

Meeting adjourned at: 8:05 PM

Next meeting ; Tues, February 6, 2007

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Gillis

Administrative Assistant