

**Seven Hills Charter Public School Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday February 17, 2009**  
**5:00pm – 7:00pm**

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 5:20

Present: Donna Lemoyne, Cynthia Krackovic, Krista Piazza, Lee Cordaro, Carlton Watson

Minutes

Minutes of the December 2, 2008, SHCPS Board of Trustees Meeting presented for approval.  
There was no meeting held in January

Motion to approve minutes: Donna Lemoyne

Second: Lee Cordaro

**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. Student Achievement Update: See attached presentation, Krista Piazza reviewed slide presentation and elaborated on trainings provided to the teachers to give them methods and tools to be utilized to assist in increasing student achievement.
- b. Krista Piazza spoke about the potential for change to the schedule in FY2010 and the issue that she is unable to get a commitment from Worcester on the transportation. As a result she has been unable to arrange for discussion with parents for input. Staff input varies greatly on how they feel. The longer 4 days and 1 half day. Donna Lemoyne spoke to the concerns about the extended day to accommodate the half day. Concern about productivity and discipline for children as a result of this longer day was raised, the children are tired, and especially the younger grades. Krista Piazza spoke about the Village program being mostly the younger students who already manage a longer day. Lee Cordaro spoke about the trend being the longer school day. JA would potentially have electives during that period. Carlton Watson noted that the savings and the budget implication will also drive the need to go to this four and one schedule. This topic will be further reviewed at the retreat.

## 2) Board Report:

- a. Board Work Plan: School Improvement update plan and board work plan to be revised. (This will be addressed as part of the retreat agenda and induction process for new members)
- b. Schedule retreat: Date will be Tuesday April 7, 2009. Potential topics to include the proposed schedule and longer days in FY2010 and SPED model change. Time will be 5:30pm to 9:00pm.
- c. Update on recruitment: Lee Cordaro will schedule a meeting time with Carlton with one of the potential candidates that she knows.
  - a) Resignation of Richard Bisk effective 12/31/08
  - b) Resignation of Rebecca Blodgett (no letter received) effective 12/31/08
  - c) Updated list of current board members: Attached

## 5) New Business:

- a) MCPSA Delegate Assembly March 26, 2009 from 9:00am to 12:00: Hand out provided. Krista Piazza will attend the afternoon and Cynthia Krackovic will attend the morning events.
- b) Meeting with DCU, update and covenant changes proposed: Copy of amendment included, adjustment to the debt ratio calculation by way of removal of the capital within the calculation, and instatement of a new measure of the current assets/current liability of 2 to 1, at year end 6/30/08 our CA/CL ratio was 5 to 1. This will allow the school to do necessary capital improvements even in this time of tight revenue projections.

Motion to approve amendment to loan covenants: Donna Lemoyne

Second: Lee Cordaro

**All members voted in favor of the motion.**

- c) DOE Letter regarding waiver requests, waivers will not be granted for time lost due to the ice emergency in December 2008.
- d) Extension of School day Monday through Thursday (March 9, 10,11,12, 16,17,18,19) and holding school on April 10<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday). Krista Piazza spoke to the need to comply with the extended day due to our tie with Worcester transportation. Extended day will be bus pick up starting at 3:30, and parent pick up to follow. Notices went home on the need for the extended school days. The Good Friday additional day is recommended by the Charter School Office. The staff vote showed that the majority voted against holding school on Good Friday. Krista Piazza noted that she did not believe that student attendance would be the issue, but rather that it would be a staff attendance issue. Rationale to not work Good Friday is based on the staff vote that was done that showed the low attendance of staff, and taking into account the previous plans made, historical attendance of staff and students when we did have Good Friday as a working day on the calendar, and morale as another deciding factor. Discussion was had around adding additional days to the end of the year.

Motion to approve the extended day without working Good Friday: Lee Cordaro

Second: Donna Lemoyne

**All members voted in favor of the motion.**

- e) Charter Amendment as required to change the calendar based on the approved longer days as noted in the vote on item d.

Motion to move forward with submission of an amendment as noted above: Lee Cordaro

Second: Donna Lemoyne

**All members voted in favor of the motion.**

- f) MCAS schedule adjustment: Due to the weather emergency in December 2008 the DOE has approved a two day extension on the March 2009 testing window and a four day extension on the May 2009 testing window. The long composition test date may not be changed: Copy of letter attached.
- g) Site Visit: March 24<sup>th</sup> is site visit, and preparation will be addressed at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Board members will be required to be available, 8:30am is proposed meeting time for board members.

#### **6) Financial Report**

- a) Personnel Update , none to report.
- b) Enrollment Report as of 1/27/09: 672 enrolled waitlist 243, ADM 677.1
- c) Cash Balances: November 2008 and December 2008, presented no questions.
- d) November 2008 and December 2008 Balance Sheet and P/L, presented no questions.
- e) 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Budget to Actual period ended 12/31/08 presented, Cynthia Krackovic noted that this document was used to confirm funding availability for FY09 budget cuts, a formal proposal will be presented for vote in March.
- f) Update on Governor Deval Patrick's mid year budget cuts: 9C provides local cities and towns the discretion on where these cuts will need to be made. Worcester has not yet provided the specifics, so it is unclear as to how much if any of these cuts will be made via education. We have still moved forward with the freeze on accounts and will bring forth a proposed amended budget at the March meeting that includes many of the items as discussed and approved at the previous board meeting.
- g) Update on Education Stimulus Bill: The formal name for this is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was just passed by Congress (hand out provided) We are still waiting to see what our local distribution will be, and the financial impact to the FY09, 2010 and 2011 budget.

Motion to approve financials as presented: Donna Lemoyne

Second: Lee Cordaro

**All members voted in favor of the motion.**

Motion to adjourn: Lee Cordara

Second: Donna Lemoyne

**Meeting adjourned at: 7:23PM**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Krackovic, Business Manager