

Seven Hills Charter Public School Board of Trustees
June 3, 2008 (not held)
August 7, 2008
New Hire Luncheon/Board Meeting to be held at Leo's Restaurant
11:00am to 1:00pm

Welcome

Meeting began at 12:37 PM. In attendance: Donna Lemoyne, Rebecca Blodgett, Richard Bisk, Cindy Krackovic and Krista Piazza. Beth Gillis recorded meeting minutes. Due to the lack of quorum the board members in attendance agreed to cover only the essential topics for discussion. All subjects scheduled for a vote will be tabled until the next meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of the May 6, 2008 SHCPS Board of Trustees Meeting presented for approval. *(**)

Motion to approve: Tabled until next meeting

Second:

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) Introduction of New Staff

Two new staff members were hired today, so they were unable to attend the New Hire Luncheon. John Guelfi was hired as an 8th grade TA and Tracy McDonald was hired as a Reading Specialist. There are two remaining open positions; PT Speech/Language and Network Engineering. The Network position was crucial to the 2007-08 school year due to the networking changes and system set up, however, the department head is evaluating whether the position is still required. The new Student Information Manager, Jessica Reyes, will begin in 2 weeks.

b) Student Achievement Report

The Student Achievement Report has been summarized in the annual report that was included in the packet mailed to the trustees members. Ms. Piazza wishes the board to note three key areas of the Student Achievement Report:

First, Ms. Piazza wishes to bring special attention to Seven Hill's new Junior National Honor Society. Credit for creating and organizing the Society goes Mrs. Sheila Daw.

The second important area for discussion is the suggestions to change the start date for Grade K. Seven Hill's policy is to accept children who turn 5 years of age before December 1st. This policy is consistent with Worcester Public Schools, however, other district school in Massachusetts state that students must be 5 years by September/October. Kindergarten teachers requested that the board revisit this policy. They are concerned that some of the students do not possess the maturity or toilet skills necessary for starting Kindergarten. Members of the 1st and 2nd Grade team also expressed concern that maintaining the December cut off date may result in issues in later grades. Ms. Piazza investigated this concern by gathering and analyzing data from the 2007-08 school year. She discovered that 34 out of the 76 students accepted into Kindergarten would not have made the September/October cut off date. Furthermore, not one of these students were earmarked as students with toileting issues or at risk for retention.

Members of the Board felt it is important to be in line with Worcester Public Schools and keep the December cut off date. They also agreed that since Kindergarten is not mandatory, parents have the option of keeping them home one more year before starting first grade. Although the concerns conveyed by the teachers were not supported by this data, it was agreed by the Board that it was an important issue to revisit and should be added to the November agenda.

c) School Improvement Plan Update

d) Governors Readiness Project

e) Adoption of Policies

Since the Board is not in quorum, the attending members decided to review the key changes to the handbook.

Key changes include:

- (1) CORI policy (pg68) – Massachusetts issued new standards so that more information must be included on the application.
- (2) Lunch price increase – The board voted and approved the change online.
- (3) Enrollment policy – Massachusetts changed the official definition of “sibling” so that step-children are no longer included in the verbage. This new definition is very controversial and is going to affect our application process significantly. K start age, defining a sibling in handbook (pg 63) per Massachusetts law. New definition is very controversial.
- (4) Discipline process (pg 41) has been separated into PA, EA and JA departments and will redefine the roles of the coaches

2) Board Report:

- a) Goals FY08/09 Assigned Task/Work Plan Update *(**)
- b) Presentation Schedule for FY09 *(**)

3) Old Business:

4) New Business:

- a) Peabody Technology Purchase *(**)

Motion to approve: Tabled until the next meeting

Second:

All members voted in favor of the motion.

- a) FY08 Audit Schedule *(**)
- b) FY09 Meeting Schedule: draft provided *(**)

Motion to approve: Tabled until the next meeting.

Second:

All members voted in favor of the motion.

- c) Thank you letter from SHCPS Drama Club attached (**)
- d) Increase to paid lunch by .25
- e) Change in Disability Insurance vendor from Standard Insurance to Unum, resulting in approximately a \$10 reduction in cost. Effective August 1st.
- f) Kindergarten Enrollment cut off date for 2009-2010

5) Financial Report

- a) Personnel Update /Final June 2008* (**)
- b) Staffing Report Update FY09 * (**)
- c) Enrollment Report as of 07/30/08: XXX enrolled waitlist XXX, ADM not applicable until after school opens.
Note: March submission of ADM is what final payment is based and was above our maximum allowed 666 in FY2008.
- d) Cash Balances: April 2008, May 2008 and June 2008 *(**)
- e) April 2008, May 2008 and June 2008 (pre-audit) Balance Sheet and P/L *(**)
- f) 4th Qtr Budget verses Actual * (**)
- g) FY09 Amended Proposed Budget *(**)

Motion to adjourn:

Second:

Meeting adjourned at:

Next meeting: September 2, 2008

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Gillis

Administrative Assistant