

Seven Hills Charter Public School Board of Trustees
Minutes
December 4, 2007

Welcome

Meeting began at 6:07 PM. In attendance: Carlton Watson, Rebecca Blodgett, Jim Diggins, Lee Cordaro, Richard Bisk, Cindy Krackovic, Krista Piazza and Gerald Yung. Cheryl Hollocher from Special Education also attended. Beth Gillis recorded meeting minutes.

Holiday Party Reminder: Funky Murphy's (Shrewsbury Street, Worcester) Friday December 7th, from 4:00-7:00pm. RSVP to Jessica Minor.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 6, 2007 SHCPS Board of Trustees Meeting presented for approval.

Motion to approve: Jim Diggins

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) Action Planning (MCAS Results) - Presented by Krista Piazza. See attached school improvement plan for detailed information.

- b) Corrective Action Plan (CPR) - Presented by Cheryl Hollocher, Special Education Director. Draft attached for the Board's review. Seven Hills was very successful in their Corrective Action Plan. Two major areas for improvement include:
 - Sheltered English Immersion training for staff. There is currently a project in place that is moving forward. It will take a lot of money and focused effort to meet the goal. It's an enormous commitment for teachers to take on this intensive training.
 - The state has specific guidelines about pullouts for ELL students. The SPED department is developing a strategy to make sure that students receive the standard curriculum that all students receive but also receive the special accommodations that they need. Seven Hills' charter could be jeopardized if we do not comply with the state's

guidelines. Cheryl Hollocher is working with the DOE to develop a strategy of what will be accepted before a final report is submitted.

Motion to approve: Richard Bisk

Second: Rebecca Blodgett

All members voted in favor of the motion.

- c) Special Programs (Special Education, ELL, SHELL) -- Summary presented by Cheryl Hollocher, Special Education Director. Seven Hills has 85 students who are currently on IEP's that are eligible for services. There are 34 504 students, 13 in the referral process, and 7 under observation to determine the appropriate next step. Our SPED population is commensurate with Worcester Public School's population. Cheryl Hollocher reported that there is a sizable increase in Special Education students. She has investigated whether there is an actual increase in the number of students needing services or if the method for determination has been changed and found that Seven Hills has definitely seen an increase in the number of students. Rebecca Blodgett suggested that perhaps this increase is proof of Seven Hill's excellent reputation with Special Education. Cheryl Hollocher feels strongly that we are NOT over-identifying.

2) Board Report:

On behalf of the Inc. Foundation, Cindy Krackovic requested input from the Board to help identify contacts to add to the outreach mailing. The mailing is intended to help expand fundraising efforts and increase community exposure. Please email Cindy Krackovic with any pertinent information.

Strategic Planning / Subcommittees

a. Academic Achievement

1. *Math and Science Initiative:* (Rebecca Blodgett, Krista Piazza, Richard Bisk, Andrew Feland)

b. Organizational Viability "Finance"

1. *Funding Support:* (Donna Lemoyne, Carlton Watson, Cynthia Krackovic, Krista Piazza)
2. *Facilities:* (Rebecca Blodgett, Lee Cordaro, Gerald Yung, Krista Piazza ("development phase only"))

c. Faithfulness to Charter "Governance"

1. *Population Served:* (Jim Diggins, Darrell Gibbs, Krista Piazza, Gerald Yung)
2. *Dissemination:* (Lee Cordaro, Krista Piazza)
3. *Political Advocacy:* (TBD)
4. *Board Development:* (Rebecca Blodgett, Krista Piazza, Cindy Krackovic, Carlton Watson) DOE/Charter School

trainings board members to attend minimum of one training per year.

3) Old Business: No Old Business to report at this time.

4) New Business:

- a) 403(b) Current vendor has not been responsive to Seven Hills relative to both the changes in the IRS regulations and accessibility to staff. Cindy Krackovic is working with HR Knowledge to identify a new provider. Lincoln Investment Planning is currently under consideration and will provide a formal proposal to be presented to the board at the February meeting.
- b) February Retreat -- Scheduled for February 5th from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Cindy Krackovic requested suggestions from the board regarding location for the meeting. Although some potential alternatives were presented the board consensus was to stay with the Crowne Plaza. Cindy Krackovic will move forward to secure the Crowne Plaza for the retreat date. The agenda will be developed by Carlton Watson and Krista Piazza. It was suggested that Chris Bogden be invited to return as the facilitator. Carlton Watson and Krista Piazza will contact Chris Bogden in conjunction with the development of the retreat agenda.
- c) Notes from November 15, 2007 Charter Leader Meeting provided by Krista Piazza are attached. There were no questions.

5) Financial Report

- a) Personnel Update (Attached)
- b) Enrollment Report as of 11/27/07: 674 enrolled, waitlist 177, ADM 674.2
- c) Cash Balances: October 2007 (Attached)
- d) October 2007 Balance Sheet and P/L (Attached)
- e) Cost structure for FY08 audit: Tofias should have for January meeting.

Cindy Krackovic reported on the financial information.

Motion to adjourn: Jim Diggins

Second: Rebecca Blodgett

Meeting adjourned at: 7:45 PM

Next meeting ; Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Gillis

Administrative Assistant