

SC-Cal Board Meeting  
April 15, 2010

Board members present: Andrea Mathis, Ross Norton, Pauline Sternick, Ann Miller, Jean Halle  
Absent: Randy Wilgis and Tamra Misseijer

Others in attendance: Scott Moores, Lisa Luvollo, Bill Moser, Secaida Howell

1. Andrea called the meeting to order, serving as chair in the absence of Randy.

2. Amendments were made to the minutes of the March 18, 2010 meeting.

- Item number 9 was changed to read that the motions passed with Andrea voting no and Jean abstaining.
- Item number 10 was changed with the words “qualify or EBT and” struck from the first sentence.
- Item number 13 was changed. Andrea had re-written the entry and read her version to the board, with no one objecting to her changes. Her version is:

The issue of the progress of the 501(c)(3) was discussed by the Board. Dr. Howell stated that it was still in progress. Concerns were brought up concerning the timelines for completion. At this point the application is still in progress and has not been mailed. Andrea Mathis stated that after 27 months from the formation of the incorporation IRS would question the delayed filing of the application and an additional IRS form Schedule E would need to be filed. Other questions regarding this time frame were asked. It was mentioned by Andrea that every change delays the application as it is intended to represent a current reflection on the operations of the non-profit incorporation. Andrea agreed to work with Dr. Howell in researching this timeline and report back to the Board chair.

Due to the degree of the changes to the minutes, the board decided to wait until the next regular board meeting to approve the re-written version of the March minutes.

3. Lisa LuVollo reported that a new tracking report was being sent out because the previous report was incorrect. There are 221 new applications, 172 re-enrollments, and 28 new siblings. Letters are going out every Monday and information sessions are scheduled across the state. CES provided a PowerPoint presentation and handouts. A Countdown newsletter went out the day before the meeting.

4. Lisa also said she was drafting a letter that Dr. Howell could submit to the Spartanburg newspaper following the closing of a school there. She added that she was out a news release on the open house sessions.

5. Computer policy. Letters on the new policy have gone out. Some on board didn't receive the letter. Dr. Howell said he could make sure board members get a copy of the letter.

6. Dr. Howell reported that he was in the process of trying to hire a 6<sup>th</sup> teacher. He said he did approach one candidate, but that teacher has moved back to Atlanta, so he is starting over. Sally Birmingham at CES will assist. He is looking for teachers certified in middle school / secondary school.

7. Dr. Howell reported that orientation sessions are scheduled and that he continues to have weekly conferences with CES and biweekly conferences with Jean. He said the conferences are going well.

8. Dr. Howell also recognized Tammy Wyatt as our first Teacher of the Year.

9. Dr. Howell said he had retrieved a state check of more than \$200,000. The check had never arrived but it was tracked down and enabled the school to make a payment to CES.

10. Dr. Howell presented a second quote for an auditor. He was asked by the board to get a second quote after the Elliot Davis quote came in at \$14,000. A second quote was for between \$11,000 and \$12,000, but with a stipulation that unexpected auditing needs could cause the final price to go higher. Bill Moser said we have a budget of about \$14,000 for an auditor. The board voted to award the contract to Elliot Davis.

11. Truancy policy: Dr. Howell said a draft truancy policy was being developed. One idea is to have a parent liaison to engage those parents who seem to be unengaged in their children's learning and accountability. Jean said we need to develop a policy, but that we need to get the attorneys involved to make sure we are satisfying South Carolina requirements. Andrea said she would pull the state truancy law and send it to Dr. Howell. Jean recommended drafting a policy and then taking it to legal counsel.

12. Bill Moser presented the budget report. He said federal money normally starts flowing in January, and although it had been slow getting started this year, the money was flowing now. The board voted to accept the budget report.

13. Under new business, Andrea asked when the new books and materials will go out for the coming year. Jean said CES was working to get them out quickly with a possible Aug. 1 shipping date. Both Jean and Dr. Howell said that with a year of experience behind us, the second year of SC-Cal should go smoother.

14. Pauline reminded the board that we need to post an agenda 24 hours in advance of board meetings. Scott said he could post the meetings 24 hours in advance but he should receive the agenda far enough in advance to do so without pressing the deadline too closely. Pauline suggested getting the agenda to Scott 48 hours before the board meeting. Andrea asked Ross to let Tamra know of the new practice so that she could give Scott the agenda 48 hours prior to the May meeting.

Pauline, who attended a training session for board members, also said we need to consider how to handle public input at board meetings and establish rules on how to handle public comment. She said hard copies of board minutes should be available to the public at our Columbia offices and that we also need to keep minutes for committee meetings to be approved by the board. Pauline said it was an excellent workshop and encouraged everyone to take part in a teleconference that covers the material.

15. There was much discussion on this proposed amendment to the CES service agreement: "The CES CEO will be copied on all SC-CAL board correspondence between board members and between the Headmaster. The CES CEO will also be invited to attend all SC-Cal board meetings and be invited to speak on matters that pertain to the school's academic program or support services. The CES CEO will also be invited to attend all board executive sessions except in matters involving the CES contract or performance. The CES CEO will participate in discussions involving the performance and evaluation of the Headmaster."

Ross said he felt like that language wouldn't pass muster with the district board and cited their letter regarding the ex-officio status. Andrea said she thought it would cause problems with 501(c)3 status.

Jean said that, while she appreciates the school board's predicament, she was sure the CES board would not OK changes to the schools debt repayment plan without having a guaranteed voice at the SC-Cal board meetings. She said she felt like her resignation from the board should be sufficient to quell conflict of interest concerns. She also pointed out that the district's expectations have changed regarding her place on the SC-Cal board.

Pauline said the district board is trying to toe the line to keep state funding flowing, and CES had a financial stake and the use of its name to think about. She recommended that we vote for the amendment, which was emailed to us from Randy, because Randy has been in touch with District Superintendent Wayne Brazell. Jean recused herself from the vote.

The vote was 2-2 with Ross and Andrea voting no.

More discussion followed because of the 15-day deadline, with Pauline asking Ross and Andrea their final reasons for their votes.

Ross cited the letter from Brazell and said he felt like if the district board were not OK with Jean being an ex officio member of the board, they wouldn't be OK with her having a guaranteed seat in the board's deliberation.

Andrea again cited the 501(c)3 status and said if we fail to keep the charter, none of the rest of it will matter. Andrea asked Dr. Howell to contact the SC-Cal attorney for guidance.

The meeting closed at 5:28 pm.

Submitted by Ross Norton

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