

South Carolina Calvert Academy

Budget Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2010

In Attendance:

Steve Brown
Scott Moores
Pauline Sternick
Tamra Misseijer

Pauline Sternick opened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

The Committee met to discuss financial concerns that were presented via email by Board Member Ann Miller during the previous week. Mrs. Miller wanted to know if SC-CAL could use the \$10,000 that is being spent on CES ATS services (helping SC-CAL teachers grade) and put that money toward hiring an additional teacher for next year.

Mr. Moores from CES (Calvert Educational Services) noted that the \$10,000 would cover one quarter of teacher pay while the \$10,000 that is currently budgeted covers a year of grading assistance from ATS for SC-CAL teachers. Mr. Moores stated that if SC-CAL could make debt payments then maybe the \$10,000 could be placed toward hiring an 7th or 8th teacher for the 2010-2010 school-year.

Mr. Moores also stated that SC-CAL receives a 10% discount from CES for all the services that CES provides for the faculty and staff at SC-CAL. This discount is a permanent discount for the life of the CES Service Agreement between SC-CAL and CES.

The Committee discussed that the Board has approved the hiring for a 6th SC-CAL teacher for the current school-year as well as a 7th teacher for the 2010-2011 school-year. The Committee felt that there is enough room in the budget for 7 teachers for the 2010-2011 school-year but not 8 teachers. The Committee felt that this first year of teaching was difficult on teachers as they were not accustomed to a virtual school environment, however, the Committee felt that because of their experience gained this school year, the teachers will not be as stressed next year and will be better prepared and equipped to handle their current teaching loads.

The Budget Committee suggests that the Board vote upon the current fee schedule of repaying the \$300,000 debt to CES over 4 years versus the original payment plan of paying \$200,000 debt to CES over 4 years. The Committee also suggest that only 7 teachers be hired for the 2010-2011 school-year however if the federal government allots more funds for a public charter school grant, the Budget Committee will review

the hiring of an additional 8th teacher for the 2010-2011 school-year. The current plan states to hire 2 teachers every year, however, the Committee suggests that only 1 more teacher be added for next year bringing the total to 7 teachers for the 2010-2011 school year. It was noted that the current budget plan for the FY 2010-2011 is for a student enrollment of 350 but the Board has a target goal of 400 students for next school-year.

The Budget Committee also discussed the accountability of teachers with regards to checking up on students and the completion of assignments, checkpoints, and touchpoints. It appears that many teachers at SC-CAL have not had much involvement with students, thus the Committee would like to address that issue in the Board meeting later in May. Mr. Moores suggested forming an Academic Committee that would help address the issue of student and teacher involvement. Currently there are almost 40 students who are enrolled in SC-CAL but are neglecting to complete daily checkpoints. It was noted that the state would not look favorably upon this as they have approved funding for a certain amount of students and almost 40 are not participating.

Mr. Moores suggested also that there could be a Dashboard to help teachers keep track of student progress by having a matrix to show a matrix of student achievement, checkpoints, touchpoints, participation, etc. The Dashboard could also help raise awareness to the Board for the overall performance of SC-CAL.

Just before closing, Mrs. Sternick suggested to have a webinar on the SC-CAL website to aid potential and current parents on the true role of a Learning Guide in helping students to ensure academic success. Mr. Moores said that could be possible and would have CES marketing help Mrs. Sternick with the webinar.

Pauline Sternick adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tamra K. Misseijer