

Board of Governors
Sobriety High School
Wednesday October 10th, 2007
5:00 – 8:00 pm

Members Attending: Peggy Hunter, Bob Doffing, Curt Knutson, Chet Johnson, Julie Swokorski, Larry Schmidt, Chad Benesh, Alan Braun, Bryan Pepper, Charlotte Mardell, Lee Wignall, Michele Milan
Staff: Mary Breitenbucher, Judi Hanson, George Sand, Kellie Lund, Laura Hoenack, Mary Popelka
Guests: Rae Frank, SHF Executive Director, Cathie Hartnett, SHF Trustee chair, Sandy Schmidt, School Business Solutions, Katie Gruchalla, Arona Science instructor, Paul McGlynn, Arona Special Ed instructor, John Christensen, ISD 917 Superintendent

Call to Order

Peggy Hunter

SHF update

- Cathie summarized the year for SHF, and introduced the new executive director, Rae Frank.

Approvals

Peggy Hunter

- Agenda
- Minutes – September 19, 2007
 - Two changes
 - Change the November meeting to the 14th
 - Take out the 2%
- Check Register
 - Questions & Discussion
- Faculty/Staff contracts
 - No new agreements

Motion to approve the list of approvals was made and seconded.

ACTION: ADOPTED

Treasurer's Report

Curt Knutson

- Review of Financial Status
 - The charter school's financial status continues to improve. We have a cash balance, and are paying our current accounts on time. School Business Solutions continues to provide reports and information in a timely fashion.
 - There is a finance committee meeting scheduled in the upcoming week.
- Progress related to SOD
 - Preliminary audit results for FY07 show a surplus of \$67,000, bringing our negative fund balance to -4.7%. The charter school will remain in SOD in 07.
 - Presuming we hit our target of \$44,000 budget surplus this year, we would still be just short of the -2.5% necessary to draw us out of SOD. We are expecting to exceed this by enough to bring the charter school out by the end of 08.
- Progress on audit
 - The fieldwork has been completed. The final problem was setting up the campus accounts in the school books. Sandy is expecting some comments on the audit regarding these accounts and the exposure related to them.
 - The final step is writing the annual report and the financials. Will be on schedule to have the audit report done by the end of November.
- Campus funds

George Sand

- All site directors will be closing out their activity accounts, we are working out a procedure for the student council accounts. Parent accounts will remain outside of the school book keeping.
- The auditor has recommended these accounts come under board control. If they are outside of board control, we have to pay for a separate audit of the accounts, and a higher level of accountability is required.

Chair's Report

Peggy Hunter

- Building for the Future – Our Common Welfare Comes First (claiming one of the AA traditions)
 - The charter school must continue to build Sobriety High's strong local and national reputation.
 - As we learn what our strengths are, we can assist SHF as they look beyond this charter school to expand the model of Sobriety High.
 - We should share successes with each other, let others know what's working and what's not.
 - Our common welfare comes first, depending on unity and working together toward the same end, helping each campus do the best it can for the good of the whole

Interim Director's Report

George Sand

- Update on activities to date
 - George updated the board on his activities to date. His report is included in the archive of these minutes.
- Website
 - George has met with the new website consultant for Sobriety High Foundation. The charter school and the Foundation have agreed on a common layout and plan for implementation.
- Recruitment/Marketing/Promotion
 - George has been meeting with Mary P at Arona regularly, and will soon begin meeting with Kellie regarding the Maplewood site.
- Work plan for coming month
 - George showed the board his work plan for the coming month.
 - Highest priority is to increase ADMs at sites currently operating under capacity. His report is included in the archive of these minutes.

Policy Report

Michele Milan

- Michele has created a policy review schedule for the next 3 years. Each policy will be reviewed once at a meeting, changes and updates will be made, and the policy will be adopted at the following meeting.
- Michele will continue to revise this calendar if there are policies of importance that board members would like to adopt sooner.
- The board chose to do a general review of all of the current policies and MSBA template policies that Michele has listed for the next three years, and adopt them all with no changes at the next meeting.

A motion to adopt all policies on the calendar at the next meeting was made and seconded.

ACTION: ADOPTED

Nominating Committee Report

Chad Benesh

- Elections will be held after Thanksgiving, and new members will be voted on at the December board meeting.
- This committee is only in charge of the at-large positions, but they will also ensure that the faculty rep and board rep positions are also filled.

By-law changes

Chad Benesh

- Last January, the board voted to change the terms to calendar years instead of annual meeting to annual meeting. There is a discrepancy between this vote and the by-laws
- A revision of the by-laws is needed for this and for some small changes in wording.

- Lee Wignall and Chad will work together as a committee, and will present their recommended changes to the board.

A motion to create this by-laws committee was made and seconded.

ACTION: ADOPTED

Program Directors' Reports

Alliance Academy

Mary Breitenbucher

- Enrollment
 - September 4 – 43
 - September 28 – 50 (first MARSS submission)
 - October 10 – 45
 - 27 12th grade, 11 11th grade, 4 10th grade, 3 9th grade
 - 23 males, 22 females
 - 16 special education (35%)
 - No PSEO students, one out of state
 - Losses
 - Kids in treatment, due back in October – 3
 - Kids in treatment, due back in November – 3
 - Kids in long term treatment – 3, including 2 civil commitments); unlike to return this year
 - Kids who left to use – 3
 - Anticipated admissions within the next week – 2
- Highlights
 - Parent teacher conferences
 - 25 families attended conferences on October 4th and 5th
 - In general, an influx of good new students, relatively stable community, large and active PSO that is dominated by new parents.
 - Students have continued weekly lunch time Big Book study (voted to include males and females this year – no longer “men’s group”)
 - Students organized monthly speaker meeting at school on Wednesday evenings
 - Local church group continues to donate supplies and bus cards
 - Meetings with River Ridge to continue recovery curriculum plans; hope to respond to RFP from State of Minnesota Chemical Health Division.
- Challenges
 - ADM (recruitment, retention)
 - Recovery motivation and curriculum

West Campus

Judi Hanson

- Enrollment
 - 53 currently enrolled
 - 34 12th grade, 12 11th grade, 6 10th grade, 1 9th grade
 - ADM 51.7
- PTO
 - Parents held their second meeting and it was well attended
 - They are starting to finalize their committees and are beginning to plan some of their traditional activities, such as cleaning the school, Wednesday breakfast treats, and the all night party
 - They are looking forward to Academic Night, which allows parents to meet the teachers in their classrooms and hear the expectations and academic goals for their students
- Student Council
 - Elections were held and all the officers were elected
 - Students are planning activities and fundraisers for the upcoming year
- Campus board

- The board is hosting a breakfast fundraiser this weekend.
- They have planned a senior social event on November 4th at the home of Keith Holtan. It will include a dinner prepared by the members of the board
- College Fair
 - All juniors and seniors attended the National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center
 - Many students obtained excellent information that helped direct their post secondary planning
 - Several students also found help regarding financial aid and filling out the FAFSA form
- Highlight
 - Under the direction of Chad Benesh, who wrote the script, the staff performed in a video that promotes positive behavior in academic, social, and recovery areas of student lives. This is the second in a series of videos based on a popular MTV show.

North Summit Academy

Kellie Lund

- Enrollment
 - 38 students
- Outreach
 - 6 other families are pursuing the application process
 - 2 students enrolling Monday
 - 9/27 Kellie spoke at New Connections in St Paul
 - 5 marketing visits scheduled and coming up
- Student Council
 - Active, helped support Fall Ball * Dance for recovery month
- PSA
 - Minimally engaged so far this year
 - Graduate's parent office volunteer on Wednesday afternoons
 - New parent willing to volunteer answering phones Thursday or Friday
- Campus Board
 - Betty Brost resigned as chair. Marge Romero is willing to take over
 - No meetings held or scheduled yet this year
 - Board will need to clarify mission, commitments and involvement and recruit members
- Highlights
 - 5 students lost from Phoenix, 3 using, 2 graduated.
 - Began relationship with Century College service learners (from into to chem. dep class)
 - 4 of their students are helping our students and staff
 - May have another Century intern available to produce an orientation video and marketing video
 - Have 3 volunteers available to help with technology needs
 - Hosted recovery month field day and dance on 9/28. 50 guests at the Fall Ball, 68 at the dance.
 - Century staff spoke to students about PSEO.

Arona Academy

Mary Popelka

- Enrollment
 - 39 students currently enrolled
 - 13 females, 26 males
 - 21 12th grade, 13 11th grade, 5 10th grade
- Changes
 - 5 new students
 - 1 student left for treatment (retuning end of October)
 - 1 student left (long history of chemical use and no follow through)
 - 3 new students starting Friday
 - 1 student starting after treatment (3 weeks)
- Outreach

- Julie and Mary spoke at Anthony Louis Center parent night
- Students are meeting with George and Mary to create the Arona Speakers Bureau as well as to assemble literature to work with
- Indian Education is available for Arona students. One student is already participating.
- Ongoing events
 - Campus board – meeting every 3rd Thursday of each month
 - Parent student community meeting scheduled for November 1st (always the 1st Thursday of the month with conferences every other meeting)
 - Students continue to step up and hold each other accountable to maintaining recovery standards in and outside of school.
- Staffing changes
 - We continue to hold off on hiring an administrative person until numbers are consistent with projection
 - Michele has a student teacher until the end of the 1st quarter
 - Paul is now .8 special ed and .2 English. He will be overseeing our all-school drama unit beginning 3rd quarter.

Meeting Dates to be held at the central office unless otherwise noted 4:00 – 6:30

- November 14th note date change
- December 19th
- January 16th, 2008