

Prairie Seeds Academy -- District # 4126

Board of Director's Board Meeting
4 PM – 6:00 PM at 6200 W Broadway Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

November 18, 2015

Mission

Prairie Seeds Academy, in cooperation with families and community, provides leadership in rigorous education, to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring citizens who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Board of Directors' Purpose

To provide leadership, set policy, and develop accountability practices that will ensure high student achievement.

Call to order: 4:09

Role Call

Present: Jeff C, Mindy, Xee, Tzianeng

Absent: Felicia

Ex-Officio: DeGune

Guests: Jim, Chuck, Crystal, Mong, Brody, Chad

I. Reports:

- Financial Report and Motion: (5 min) *
 - School is financially in very good standing. We are tracking ahead of enrollment, which is right where we want to be. No indications of anything to watch out for. There was a question on Phase I Site Assessment in Management Reports that will be looked into by Chuck. Xee made a motion to approve the Financial Statements and Management Reports– Mindy Second. All voted in favor.
- Minutes of previous meeting and Motion: (5 min) *
 - Jeff made a motion to approve October's minutes– Xee second. All voted in favor.
- CEO/ Principal's Report: (10 min each)
 - Ger and Choua were out of town and will report next meeting.

II. Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- Bus purchase-Mong Vang will provide information *
 - Chuck and Ger recommended to approve a budget of \$400, 000 to purchase transportation vehicles. They are looking at buying at least 4 buses. This could be addition to the fleet or replacements. We have the room in the budget for it. Even if we use some of our fund balance, which is strong, we are capitalizing the buses, which helps us in the end. Tzianeng made the motion to approve the \$400,000 transportation vehicle budget. Jeff second – Motion passes. Call to vote-Jeff, yes; Xee, no; Tzianeng, yes; Mindy, yes.
- Update for Leadership Retreat at Audubon- Xee
 - Xee had a great time at the retreat. Audubon and the outdoor area was great, but he felt the program could have provided more activities and interactive experiences (he attended Friday). He was able to talk with other schools' Board members and heard the echoes of our issues. He recommends attending, if given the chance.
- IT information re: Chromebooks* cost and evaluation feedback from IT
 - eRate will not cover hardware, but may reimburse the data connection (Access Points) being proposed and possibly part of the internet monthly coverage. The motion, amended to be the 80 chrome books for \$35,000, on top of the 9 added Access Points, was made by Tzianeng. Xee second – All voted in favor.

III. New Business:

- Audit report- Jim Eichten from MMKR *
 - The Audit discovered 1 finding that 1 disbursement tested that was not paid within the statutory timeline of 35 days. Finding just 1 suggests that it is not a trend, and it is a minor finding. The audit was very smooth and everything went well. The Bond Refunding was a strong move that helped out greatly from a financial standpoint. Fund balance and Cash and Investments have risen. Audit results mimic what Chuck is presenting on an ongoing basis. This is positive. The change in the Net Position for 2105 reflects the Change in accounting principle (Pension/TRA) – nothing negative for us, it just affects our Net Position number for 2015. Overall, it was a great Audit. The motion to accept the Audit was made by Tzianeng, Second by Jeff. All voted in favor.

- Data –Secondary: Literacy-Brody Derks, Math-Chad DeBruzzi
 - The State looks at the MCA Reading Test Data. The move at PSA has been to the informational readings, which make up roughly 60-70% of the MCA. Brody presented Data on our Secondary students and the Action Steps that are being, and should be, taken to improve the scores. 9th Grade (non-tested year) is tested with the FAST and Study Island to give us data prior to entering 10th grade (tested year). The emphasis this year is on short, precise “teacher talk” followed by a lot of time for students to practice in collaboration and on their own. ELA teachers have moved to Benchmark Summatives, giving students more practice in the classroom before the MCA. Other Action Steps include: Monday Data Meetings, Thursday Scope and Sequence, EA Middle School support, Homeroom support, Resource folders, Walkthroughs, One on once coaching sessions, EL and SpEd support, Team Improvement Plan, and New Grade-level Curriculum.
 - The MCA Math Test is structured so that as students get older, Number and Operation questions get replaced by more Algebra and Higher-level questions. The Data is telling us that we need to Pre-Assess (to know where students are starting) and Reteach when concepts are not understood. MathCorps is supporting our teachers, as the intervention looks like the classroom instruction (I Do, We Do, etc.) and is targeting the students who need it.

- By laws- discussion
 - Discussion will be tabled to the next meeting, where members will bring revisions and questions to the meeting.

- Samples of evaluations forms will be sent out
 - Before December’s meeting, we will look at the provided examples of evaluation forms for the Principal and CEO.

- Environmental –EE Committee goals and plans
 - High School Environmental Club (run by Science teacher Ms. Ridley) shared a document showing steps and actions that are being planned for the school (recycling set-up, nature walks, tree-planting, etc.)

IV. Adjourn: 6:17

Next regular meeting: December 9, 2015

Hmong New Year Dec. 11, 2015

Future agenda items:

Data Elementary

Evaluation process at the Board level

*Items that need motions/ approval