

The Bridge Academy
Board of Directors and Governing Council
Monday, March 10, 2014

Present: Tim Dutton (ex-officio), Rachel Allison, Kit Kaolian, Vince Musto, Jaquie Marumoto, Sandy Lefkowitz

Board of Directors members not in attendance: Zanaib Muhammed, Ken Smith, Michael Bologna, Celeste Markle, Dee Fuller

The meeting was called to order at 6:04.

- **Public Comment:** No public comment
- **Trip** Approval from last Year's Washington and Boston Trips: Ms. Phiri was not at the meeting to discuss the trip and no students came to present; Sandy made it clear that a presentation must be made before funding for the trips would be approved.
- **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** It was stated that that it must be made clearer in the minutes that there must be a presentation on last year's trips before the Board will vote to fund the middle school trips.
- **Old Business:** No old business to report
- **Status Report and Update on School:** The high school had its first fight; Tim did a stipulated agreement with these two girls who were allowed back to school after five days with the understanding that they will be expelled for a full 180 days if they commit another suspendable offense. The high school has begun administering the CAPT. Things at the middle school have been challenging; we have had two fights recently. We had a behavior management coach come in and he gave some very helpful tips about how to support our more challenging students.

Tim had a student bring a BB gun to school today and asked the Board to come up with a policy around the issue of weapons in school. Vince said that any implement that could seriously injure a person should be treated with the maximum punishment. Tim said that the state has a law that stipulates that there must be some kind of hearing for any weapons offense. Kit agreed with Vince that one would have to weigh all of the factors before deciding on a consequence. He suggested creating some sort of checklist by which we could weigh the gradations of danger involved in weapons offenses. Jaquie said that any gun or weapon should carry a consequence consisting of some term of expulsion; any weapon deserves a response but the gradation of the weapon may mitigate the response. Sandy recognizes that this is a challenged community and feels that one blanket policy does no good. She thinks a checklist policy with gradations of danger would be helpful. Sandy feels that we need to take a stand against weapons and violence, especially considering the school safety considerations recently. Tim talked about the "theory of the case": If he can guarantee a time out vs. going to an expulsion committee and maybe losing he should take that into consideration. Tim will probably hand this over to the expulsion committee and let them decide the consequence for these students, both of whom are special education students. This means that both must have a "manifestation hearing" before we can proceed with any disciplinary action. The school will incur a cost if students receive a consequence that requires homebound tutoring.

- **Personnel:**
 - **Update on Job descriptions:** The job descriptions are still not complete.
 - **Approval of authority to negotiate Separation Agreement:** Tim asked the Board for, and was granted, the authority to negotiate a separation agreement.
 - **Middle School Social Studies, High School Science update:** We only had

one candidate for the science maternity leave, but that person turned the job down. We have an aide who is certified in General Science who will be taking over the position. We moved an aide (who is certified in English) to take over for the employee who received the separation agreement and hired a new person to fill her role at the middle school.

The science teacher who has not passed Praxis has received a long-term substitute certificate.

- **Evaluation of Administration:** Mr. Pimentel is not here to report.
- **Financial Committee Report:**
 - **Review of Current Expenditures:** The Finance Committee met at 5:30. Tim asked for permission to organize the budget so that it is easier to read. Jaquie asked that there be three columns; one for our beginning of the year budget, one for where we are to date and one for the projected budget.
 - **Bookkeepers:** The bookkeeping agency we have contracted is no longer reliable. Tim is going to request a replacement from our accountants.
 - **Review of Credit Card Statements:** These are completed every month.
- **By-Laws Committee:** No report
- **Technology or Website Committee Report:** Ken is not present; he is waiting to hear from Sarah.
- **Building Issues:** We earned a \$850,000 grant from the state for a new roof, outside doors, new entrance, fix the basement issue and get a new oil tank and update the science room in the middle school. If we get it we will have to wait for it to be bonded. He will hear in a month or so.
- **Other New Business:** Sandy stressed that we need to wrap up several issues (e.g. the nominations to the Board) before the end of the year. She also thinks it would be important to give Board members the opportunity each year to talk about why they choose to be on the Board. Sandy shared that she serves on the Board because she loves the kids, and is exposed to a world she knew very little about before coming to Bridge.
 - **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2014

NOTE: Meeting is at 6:00 pm at the Bridge Academy, 401 Kossuth Street. Members should contact Timothy Dutton (203 336-9999) or respond to him by return email regarding their plans to attend this meeting.