

Minutes of the Governing Council: **Monday, May 5, 2014, at 6:00pm**

Present: Tim Dutton, Sandy Lefkowitz, Maria Rivas, Ramon Bulerin, Rachel Allison, Suzanne O'Brien, Christopher James, Shandra Sanders, Levon Sanders, Jasedia Torro, John Rodriguez, Brandon DeJesus, Elisa Martinez, Taylor Riley, Ramon Bulerin, Michael Bologna, Nataya Riley, David Reyes, Abigail Reyes, Icela Reyes, Maria Acevedo, Sahara Lewis, Savannah Lewis, Valerie Gibson, Sally Nania, Monika Montalvo, Christina Montalvo, Delores Fuller, Bob Doss, Aline Doss

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**Welcome and Agenda Review:** Sandy introduced herself and explained that this session is an outgrowth of our last quarterly meeting at which we discussed how to instill character in our students. She introduced Bob Selverstone and he began by ensuring that everyone had a nametag. He told a story about a drunken man who circled a light pole and a citizen who helps the man find his key in a place where he didn't drop it but went to where there was light so he could see. He was setting up an environment in which people can learn when seeing is not clear. He went on to enable that learning every participant was given a card on which he gave an overview of the evening's learning.

**Ground Rules Discussion:** Bob's ground rule number one was that "everyone has the right to pass" and not participate. The second ground rule is "no killer statements or gestures or sounds (e.g. groans)." Number three is "speak for yourself; make 'I' statements." And lastly, "don't gossip"; what is shared tonight is confidential. He explained that we required two things: "moderate anxiety" as the evening progresses; we need some tension in order to provoke change. We also need physical and emotional safety.

**Introduction of Main Discussion Topic:** Bob introduced the idea of the factory view of education. If we are to help our students build strong character than we first need to explore the shared values.

**Discussion:** Every participant was asked to write down two to four words or phrases that describe the skills, qualities or characteristics of students upon leaving school. Participants shared such words and phrases as "confident", "respectful", "successful", "independent", "curious", "ambitious", "focused", "empathetic", "resilient", "self-worth", "perseverance", "kind", etc. Bob suggested that we are all teachers and that "we teach who we are." He asked: Who are we? He told the story of Abigail and John and how Abby compromised her values to marry John. At the end of the story Bob asked participants to rate each character in terms of their moral reprehensibility. Participants were asked to get into groups with people they were not completely familiar with to discuss their lists. He used this exercise to

demonstrate how even people with a lot in common have completely different values which is important to keep in mind if it is true that we “teach who we are.”

Next, Bob told a story about Debbie who puts an I.A.L.A.C sign every day and how pieces are torn off her sign all day. I.A.L.A.C. stands for “I am lovable and capable.” All of us wear this sign every day. People with small I.A.L.A.C. signs are those who tend to get into trouble. Freud said the healthy adult has the ability to give and receive love and the ability to find satisfaction in one’s work = lovable and capable.

**Wrap-up and next steps:** Every participant was given an I.A.L.A.C. sign and told to work tomorrow to add to someone else’s I.A.L.A.C. sign.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.