Meeting Date:

8-14-14

Time:

3:30 PM

Location:

4180 NE 15th Street

Gainesville, FL 32609

Call to Order:

Ms. Valantis called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Roll Call was taken.

Members Present: Arthur Newman

Cheryl Valantis
Juniper DiGiovanni

Sevan Terzian

In attendance:

Neil Drake

Michelle Borst

Consultant Report: Mr. Drake explained to the board why the school grade dropped so dramatically from 2013 to 2014. He said that the reason for the drop was that One Room was one of only a handful of schools in the state that did not receive a grade in 2012-13. This was because the school was one student below the limit in fifth grade. The school's FCAT score would have been a grade of A in 2012-13 but the new law was not in effect yet and therefor the school's high score didn't count. Because One Room did not receive a grade in 12-13, the school was not protected, like all the other schools in the state, from dropping more than one grade level this past year. Had One Room been granted the A grade that it earned in 2012-13, the grade this past year would have been a B.

The school's scores dropped dramatically this year for one primary reason, the loss of a math teacher to the district and the subsequent loss of the math teacher who replaced her. This left the school with a substitute,

who was already on the staff, to replace her at the last minute. The school was without an experienced math teacher while preparing for the FCAT. Reading scores were good. The Science score was average and writing scores were excellent. However, because of low math levels and low math gains the overall score dipped dramatically.

Ms. Valantis asked how losing one teacher could have so large an effect. Mr. Drake said that this teacher's classes accounted for 300 of the school's possible 800 FCAT points. In most schools, many teachers contribute to the math score but, because we are small and specialized, one teacher has an exaggerated effect. Dr. Newman suggested that the school needs a system for replacing key personnel efficiently and effectively.

Dr. Newman introduced Michelle Borst, a local architect and a long-time resident of Alachua County to the board. Ms. Borst was recruited by Dr. Newman to replace Mr. Patrick who has moved away because she brings a strong interest in public education and technical expertise in STEM education to the board. Mr. Drake said that if Ms. Borst is elected to serve on the board she cannot take her seat until her training is complete and her fingerprints and background check are done.

Mr. Drake laid out the basic steps the school is taking towards school improvement which are primarily aimed towards improvement in math and third grade performance on State Wide Testing. This includes having hired a highly qualified math instructor who is certified by Teach America, creating a STEM program and emphasis at the school, having third grade teachers specialize in math and language arts, and creating more opportunities and bringing on more personnel to tutor.

Mr. Drake reviewed administrative policy with the board with an eye to amending policies that are outdated.

Mr. Drake reviewed the new employees that have been hired by the school since the last meeting.

Treasurers Report: Dr. Newman presented the board with the most recent financial information and a budget amendment. Mr. Drake discussed both of these with the board.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Adopt Minutes:

Motion: Adopt the minutes from the annual Board Meeting of 5-10-14 and the executive board meeting of 6-20-14 as they have been recorded. (Terzian)

Second:

DiGiovanni

Vote:

Yea - 4

No - 0

Motion Carries

2. Budget Amendment for 2014-15: The Board reviewed the budget amendments presented by Dr. Newman and Mr. Drake that were presented based on current enrollment, expected expenditures and current personnel contracts.

Motion:

The Board of Directors approves the Budget Amendments for

both schools. (Valantis)

Second:

Newman

Vote:

Yea - 4

No -

- 0

Motion Carries

3. Board Nomination: The board of directors accepted the resignation of member Michael Patrick. He has moved out of Alachua County. After interviewing Ms. Borst, Ms. Valantis nominated her for a position as director and indicated that the board was ready to vote on her directorship.

Motion: The Board nominates Michelle Borst as a director who will begin her term upon completion of mandatory board training and a mandatory fingerprinting and background check. The board accepts the nomination of Michelle Borst for membership. (Newman)

Second:

DiGiovanni

Vote:

Yea - 4

No - 0

Motion Carries

4. Create Amended Administrative Policy Manual: The Board discussed Mr. Drake's concerns about new Administrative Policies.

Motion: The Board of Directors directs Mr. Drake and Dr. Newman to review all administrative policies and present the board with an amended policy manual for consideration. (Valantis)

Second:

Di Giovanni

Vote:

Yea - 4

No - 0

Motion Carries

BOARD TRAINING

Mr. Drake, a state approved Charter School Board Trainer, will provide state mandated Board training. 2 hours of board training must be given for the current members. Ms. Borst will need an additional two hours to complete the mandatory 4 hours for new board members. This will be scheduled outside of this board meeting.

MEMBERS CONCERNS

• Next Meeting: Ms. Valantis requested that the board meet when the School Improvement Plan is ready to be presented to the School Advisory Council.

These minutes were faithfully recorded by Juniper DiGiovanni, Secretary. We agree that these minutes honestly and faithfully represent the business of the Board of Directors at their meeting on 8-14-14.

Cheryl Valantin
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Arthur Newman
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Juniper DiGiovanni
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Sevan Terzian