

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

Meeting Date: 10-30-14
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
Sevan Terzian
Juniper DiGiovanni

In attendance: *Neil Drake*
Eric Torres

Mr. Drake reported to the board that the school will begin testing extensively on computers this year as the new Florida Standards come into play. He told the board that a grade will be issued this year but that it will neither positively nor negatively affect the school.

Dr. Newman suggested that, given the negative effect of suddenly losing a math teacher last year, the school needs a system for replacing key personnel efficiently and effectively. Ms. Valantis suggested that Mr. Drake, the Board Representative, could be given the authority to quickly search for and offer a contract to a new employee when a key employee is lost. Dr. Newman agreed that Mr. Drake has the most experience with personnel and already has some authority to act for the board. Dr. Newman also suggested that Mr. Drake act as interim principal in case that position becomes vacant.

Minutes of the Board of Directors One Room School House Project, Inc.

Ms. Valantis reported on her investigation of the benefits and liabilities of purchasing the school property versus continuing to lease it. After reviewing an appraisal from four years ago, she has ordered a new one. Her full report, which was distributed to the board, will be attached to these minutes. Ms. Valantis asked for comments and opinions on the report.

Dr. Newman suggested that the school will save a significant amount of funding on the facility both immediately and in the long run by purchasing the facility.

Ms. Valantis agreed that there is not much of a downside to purchasing, that interest rates are low now but expected to rise next year, and that most importantly, the school will own the facilities free and clear in twenty years which means significant financial advantages at that point.

Ms. Valantis asked if there was still interest in expanding the VPK program and if purchasing the facility would effect this decision. Mr. Drake said there is great interest in expanding the VPK program to the number of students that the school takes in each year in Kindergarten. He pointed out that a separate facility would be needed as all classrooms are currently occupied. Ms. Valantis said that, with the savings in monthly facility costs due to a purchase of the facilities, funds would be freed up to lease a separate facility for VPK.

Mr. Drake asked the board to consider reorganizing the year round program so that virtually all the school days in the year preceded the state testing. In order to do this he suggested that the school begin in July and end early in May. Tutoring weeks would be replaced by Saturday morning tutoring and a much more extensive after school tutoring program. Day camp during tutoring weeks would be replaced by a day camp in the month of May with an accompanying summer school program. He suggested that this would eliminate the most useless month of the school year without decreasing the opportunities for tutoring needy students.

Mr. Drake reported to the board that attendance at Saturday School and tutoring weeks was far less than perfect and that some parents of the school's academically underachieving students were ignoring current policy and consequences for truancy from these programs.

Ms. DiGiovanni said that this defeated the whole purpose of a year round school with a strong tutoring program. Dr. Newman suggested that attendance in these programs should be mandatory and that a student's grades and promotion should be tied to participation.

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

Mr. Drake presented the board with the school improvement plan and discussed the important aspects of the report and plan.

Mr. Torres, the school's STEM program director made a presentation on the future use of e-materials in the classroom. He answered questions on this subject and suggested that the school use its required textbook expenditure to purchase e-book platforms one classroom at a time and begin to load them with new curricula as it becomes available.

Treasurers Report: Dr. Newman presented the board with the most recent financial information.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Adopt Minutes:

Motion: Adopt the minutes from the annual Board Meeting of 8-14-14 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.

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

Motion: The Board of Directors approves the Budget Amendments for both schools. (DiGiovanni)

Second: Newman

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

3. Emergency Staff Replacement Authority: The board discussed solutions to the problem of replacing key personnel in an efficient and effective manner.

Motion: The appointed Representative of the board of directors shall have the sole discretion and authority to employ and terminate employees when the Representative determines that this is in the critical best interests of the School. The appointed Representative of the board of directors shall serve as interim principal of the school if a replacement becomes necessary. The Representative shall not receive additional compensation for this additional service or while conducting a search for a new principal. This policy supersedes previous policy and goes into effect immediately. The Board reserves the right to review and modify personnel decisions made by the Representative. (Valantis)

Second: Newman

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

4. Offer to Purchase Facilities: The board discussed the value of purchasing the facilities and agreed that this would be a good use of funds that would be a permanent investment in the future of the school.

Motion: The board directs Dr. Newman to make an offer for purchase of the school facilities for the appraised value so long as that value is not more than \$2,000,000.00. Further, should an offer be made and accepted, the board authorizes the Executive Board to seek financing with a twenty year

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

amortization at no more than 4.5% interest, with no more than 20% of purchase price as a down payment and with monthly payments lower than the current lease rate, and, under these conditions, to carry through with the purchase of the facilities. (Valantis)

Second: DiGiovanni

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

5. Search for VPK Facility: The board discussed the value of looking for a suitable and economical facility for an expanded VPK program.

Motion: The board authorizes Mr. Drake and Dr. Newman to conduct a search for a suitable VPK facility within easy driving distance of the current campus. (Valantis)

Second: DiGiovanni

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

6. New School Calendar and Enrollment: The board discussed Mr. Drake's concept of a school year that uses May for summer school. The board also discussed the enrollment periods for the 2015-16 school year.

Motion: The board authorizes Mr. Drake and the administrative staff to develop a school calendar for the 15-16 school year as well as a set of Enrollment dates for the next school year and submit it to the executive board for approval. (Valantis)

Second: Terzian

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

7. Tutoring Policies: The board discussed possible changes to the policy on attendance at tutoring opportunities.

Motion: Mr. Drake will develop policies that require attendance at all school tutoring venues for students who require remediation and for those who need to make up work. Mr. Drake, with the full authority of the Board of Directors, will implement these policies at his discretion to determine which are most effective and then submit the policies to the board for further review. These policies should include consequences to student attendance in any and all non-academic activities, including after school programs; consequences towards student grades, and consequences towards student promotion. (Valantis)

Second: Terzian

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

Motion Carries

8. SAC Meeting, Approve SIP: After reviewing the School Improvement Plan for The One Room School House, the board approves the School Improvement Plan as submitted. (Valantis)

Second: Terzian

Vote: Yea - 4
No - 0

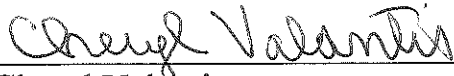
Motion Carries

MEMBERS CONCERNS

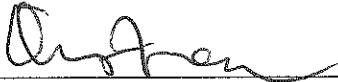
- **Next Meeting:** Ms. Valantis requested that the board meet in January and that the Executive Board be ready to meet as needed.

**Minutes of the Board of Directors
One Room School House Project, Inc.**

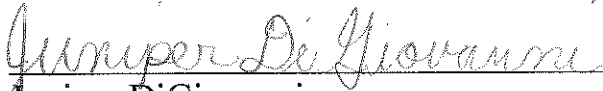
These minutes were faithfully recorded by Juniper DiGiovanni, Secretary.
We agree that these minutes honestly and faithfully represent the business of
the Board of Directors at their meeting on 10-30-14.



Cheryl Valantis



Arthur Newman



Juniper DiGiovanni



Sevan Terzian