

Minutes

OGCS Charter School Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday
6 PM
March 24, 2010

OGCS Admin Office
16900 Hwy. 9
Boulder Creek, CA. 95006

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 6:00**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** *Led by Mary Ann Shapiro*
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Approved by unanimous roll call vote.*
4. **ROLL CALL:** *Officers present were Janet Marsh (CFO), Becky Cote (President), and Mary Ann Shapiro (Secretary). John Wilberger (Vendor/District Relations) and Eric Schoffstal (Educational Coordinator, IEM) represented IEM. Board of Directors present: Lisa Bennett, Mary Burns, Nadine Ferguson, Stephanie Fields, Rhonda Jensen, Linda Koflanovich, Lisa Litchfield, Delyna Reil, Jeff Rutschow, Debbie Schatmeier, Tembi Timmons, Traci Tokhi, Joanne Torreano, Kim Wickstrum.*
5. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**
No comments were offered at this time.
6. **ACTION ITEM**
Mary Ann Shapiro announced that Action Item A would be deleted from the Agenda due to technical difficulties with the original draft of the Dec. 16, 2009 Minutes. These minutes will be added to the Agenda for the next Board of Directors meeting in May.
 - A. Approval of December 16, 2009 minutes.

Motion to approve by _____ N/A _____

Seconded by _____ N/A _____

- B. Approval of Financial Statement from last meeting

Motion to approve by _____ *Karen Martin* _____

Seconded by _____ *Lisa Bennett* _____

** Roll call vote resulted in 13 "yes" votes/0 "no" votes/2 abstentions. 15 Board of Directors present to vote. (Janet Marsh and Becky Cote logged off the conference call at 6:40 as the following presentation by Eric Schoffstal is a conflict of interest for them.)*

- C. Whereas the Charter School is operated as a public charter school and is managed by IEM, and IEM is the duly authorized representative of Ocean Grove Charter School acting on behalf of the Charter School Board of directors, a motion to authorize IEM to approve a lending to any of the IEM managed schools, which are South Sutter, Sky Mountain, and Connecting Waters, of up to one million dollars total, at a rate of 4%. The actual amount and term of the loan to be based on a recommendation from IEM .

Eric introduced himself to the Board of Directors as the Education Coordinator for IEM and stated that he wanted the opportunity to present the information already made available in writing to the Board of Directors in the form of the FAQ document addressing possible questions/concerns regarding the proposed OGCS loan to other IEM schools; hoping that this review would add clarification to this Action Item. Mary Ann Shapiro added that this is a presentation only. Questions regarding this proposal were invited prior to the meeting directly to Mary Ann. Eric introduced the topic by explaining that OGCS is fiscally solvent with healthy reserves. The challenge is that the State economic crisis has put the burden on many schools by deferring 25% of State Aid until June 30 (beyond the fiscal year). Eric reviewed the FAQ document (pertaining to Action Item C), reading and elaborating on each question and answer. Following his presentation, Eric excused himself from the meeting at 6:45 and said that further questions may be posed at this time to Mary Ann, the Finance Committee, and Randy Gaschler (President of IEM who is available on stand-by off line) prior to the vote.

After Eric's exit from the meeting, Mary Ann asked the Board of Directors if there were any questions about the FAQ document that Eric had reviewed. Joanne Torreano: "Eric mentioned that the loan is guaranteed if the State doesn't pay

back the million dollars; in this event, the IEM schools would pay OGCS back from their reserves. Would this reserve money be prioritized to pay back OGCS?

Mary Ann: Yes, it will be given priority.

Karen Martin, of the OGCS Finance Committee, read an official statement representing the Finance Committee's opinion (statement on file). Question/comment by Lisa Bennett followed: (Addressed to Finance Committee members) "To those Finance Committee members that voted "no", does hearing Eric's presentation of the information change your opinion?" Karen Martin: "No." Joanne Torreano (of Finance Committee): voted against because there wasn't a guarantee of the loan offered at that time. The budget showed that with reserves and the million dollars we are considering loaning, OGCS could exist without state money for another year, but if we loaned the \$1million, we would run into trouble much sooner if the state did/could not pay and our budget was cut. Since Randy (Gaschler) has now guaranteed to repay the loan from IEM if the state does not pay the deferred payment, Joanne did not consider it a risk any longer.

Motion to approve _____ Joanne Torreano _____

Seconded by _____ Tembi Timmons _____

*Roll call vote resulted in 11 "yes" votes; 2 dissents; 2 abstentions. Action Item passed. (15 Board of Directors present)

Eric re-entered meeting at 6:57

Becky re-entered meeting at 6:58

Janet re-entered meeting at 6:59

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Follow-up to WASC Visitation Team Information Becky: WASC visit occurred the last week in February. We had a great turn out of teachers, Board of Directors, and students. Great team effort! WASC team took an extensive look at our school. We saw their report; for the most part, it was positive. We won't know actual recommendations until later. In April, it goes to WASC Board for review for accreditation. As soon as we know, we will inform the public. We feel positive. WASC Review team was pleased over all—especially with OG staff communication/relations. We won't know for at least another month.
Delyna Reil asked if there was any specific feedback Becky could share about what comments were made from WASC team that were not so positive. Becky responded that the WASC team listed Strengths and Weaknesses. We (OGCS) cited our own weaknesses: 1: Our students still struggle in Math. 2: Same w/ELA scores (API score in general). 3: We need to increase the graduation rate of our high school students. The WASC team agreed with this, therefore there were no surprises (due to the AYP/API scores). Becky mentioned that the school will be communicating with the parents, students, and staff when final results are in.
- B. Charter Renewal update Janet: We got renewal from the District for the next 5 years in February!
- C. Graduation date - May 15, 2010 Mary Ann: Date set for May 15. Mary Ann said she would be emailing Graduation Committee soon. Mary Ann mentioned that only one recommendation for a graduation speaker has been received thus far. He is Michael Sipiora . Michael is an uncle of an OGCS graduate and a clinical psychologist. At first, he was not an advocate of, nor impressed with homeschooling; however, after seeing the positive results homeschooling had on his nephew, he is now a supporter. eScrip money has been approved (per last meeting) for graduation. The EScrip account is at about \$400. We will use this funding to purchase decorations, reception needs, and to rent a sound system for graduation.
- D. Board Committees - Mary Ann thanked the WASC sub-committee members for their involvement during the WASC visit. Mary Ann announced that the STAR and Yearbook committees have been emailed to ask for snack donations and bottled water for students at test sites. Mary Ann has sent out an email to the GEA Committee re: planning of next year's GEAs is beginning now. Mary Ann said she has been contacted by parents of high school students requesting more GEAs for this age group; these are hard to find. Mary Ann requested that any information or ideas that anyone has for a GEA should be emailed to Mary Ann at mshapiro@ieminc.org. Mary Ann will set up the GEA. The Fundraising Committee now has an E-Script balance of \$411.00. Mary Ann addressed the Park Committee saying that she wasn't sure if an OG Park Day could still be set up for the current year, but that she definitely wants to implement regular Park Days for next year.
- E.
- F. Placing items on the agenda Mary Ann reminded everyone that the Board of Directors is encouraged to send items to be added to the Agenda to Mary Ann prior to the next Board meeting. She mentioned that these items have to reflect needs/issues of the whole school, and the strengthening of the school—not individual issues (those need to be addressed to your ES).

Mary Ann asked if there were any questions. Nadine Ferguson asked if there was a structure in place whereby members of a sub-committee can meet on a regular basis? Mary Ann responded that it isn't usual, but that the Finance Committee does this, and she thinks this suggestion is appropriate. Mary Ann will contact each committee in two weeks to set up individual meetings.

8. ADJOURN Motion to Adjourn by Karen Martin. Second by Rhonda Jensen. Unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Beaumont, OGCS Secretary. Posted at Ocean Grove Charter School, 16900 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006.