

WHEA Governing Board Notes
July 15, 2015 2:30 PM at Campus

Pawasarat-Losalio Called the Meeting to order at 2:34 pm

There was not a quorum so members discussed items on the agenda but made no decisions.

University - Nina Buchanan (Proxy given by Kanani Leanio)

Community: Ethan Olins

Parent: Evert Hussey (HS), Andi Pawasarat-Losalio (MS) (Proxy for Cheryl)

Ex official: Heather Nakakura, Curtis Muraoka

Others/Guests: Lee Ann Heevy, a prospective GB member, Yuki Agoot & Mel Gross from the Explorations Foundation

Announcements:

Foundation Report by Agoot & Gross: Each introduced herself. The Foundation was established so that we could build a campus and perform other financial services that the school can't do because of restrictions on the use of state money. The expectation was that the Foundation would raise funds to support the school. Currently, the foundation is a very tight knit group that has been instrumental in securing funds to build the campus. It took 13 months to obtain funds and build the campus. A grant in aid of \$1.5 million from the Legislature was used to secure a USDA \$5.5 million loan. Over 7 years, WHEA was able to pay \$1.5 million cash. Of that, \$3 million was needed as collateral for the loan. The Foundation is a non-profit organization. It now needs money to pay the mortgage and need help to do the fund raising. There seems to be a disconnect and communication problem between the school and the Foundation. The foundation is a clearing house for the money. It is the landlord with WHEA as a leasee. In order to be effective, the school and the foundation need to be on the same page working toward a common goal. It would be helpful to have a member from the GB, from the PTO and some parents on the foundation board. At this time the Foundation needs to be applying for grants. It is important to establish and demonstrate a positive cash flow. It would be great for teachers who raise funds for specific programs to raise them through the foundation. The Foundation is looking for members. The board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. The focus is to begin a capital campaign under the Foundation umbrella. WHEA needs to work with the foundation to develop a financial plan.

The Foundation will be on the agenda under reports beginning at the August meeting.

1. Discussion Director survey request- Teacher's request - Heather will distribute a survey that we might propose to use.
2. Discussion board member openings. The members present reviewed new applications from three applicants. Kaia, the student rep has resigned so the GB will ask students to elect a new member and alternate.
3. Discussion/action: follow-up reports from Fox investigation. The GB reviewed the assignments made to draft policies to address suggestions in the report. Policies will be reviewed at the next meeting.

New Business

1. Director Report - A future issue for the school will be transportation and school buses. The Commission has asked charter schools to report the number and kind of vehicles WHEA uses to transport students. They want to know what schools use buses and in what capacity. DOT is checking with the Commission who in turn will check with each CS. DOT has declared that CS follow regulations that are used for Traditional DOE schools. The Commission may try to get a waiver for vans and smaller vehicles. Andi suggested that we might check with the DOE and review the forms they use. Perhaps, the Foundation might own the vans but they would need their own insurance.

Enrollment is on track for 2015-16 at 290 students.

Heather reported about her meeting with the HSTA union representative. According to the HSTA WHEA must follow all of the regulations in the BOE/HSTA master contract. So, for example, they assert that teachers can't evaluate teachers, teachers can't be release based on complaints but must have due process. According to the representative, if the school, did not rehire a teacher, it might be held liable. The HSTA can set up a mediation between employees. Teachers can take this route since they can't file grievances against each other. They also discussed teachers with disabilities. The GB needs to be clear in their expectations. According to the HSTA, the GB should ask the union before putting any teacher evaluation or performance contract in place. The HSTA rep also expressed concerns because teachers at WHEA have lunch duty. The GB discussed the problems with the supplementary contract.

2. a. Hiring/New staff -A STEM teacher has applied. Heather will know soon whether that person accepts the position. Heather is doing a search for part-time teacher and conducting interviewing.

b. School Construction Update - The Multipurpose room construction won't be complete until after the school year starts.
3. Discussion/action possible new policies, enrollment policy, parent handbook
A draft Social Contract for parents, students, GB and other stakeholders was presented. Curtis wanted the GB to approve it so that it would be ready for the start of school. The GB members present did not have time to review the draft and mentioned some problems with the language and format of the document. GB members should send their comments and suggestions to Heather & Curtis by the 22nd. They will review the proposed changes and bring the draft back to the GB for approval. School starts the 29th. All proposed new policies will be on the August agenda.
3. Discussion/action review proposal for GB by-laws - No discussion
4. Discussion/action Co-director's roles/salary - Curtis asked the GB to consider appointing an administrator who would receive approximately an 8% pay raise and join HGEA, the administrator's union. No action was taken.

Next Meeting: August 19, 2015

The GB members present had a brief Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Adjourned at 4:30 pm.

The WHEA Governing Board may convene in Executive Session to discuss items on this agenda, personnel matters or consult with its legal counsel.