

## Minutes of Executive Board Meeting on January 10, 2008

Present: Kathy Brito, Marci Stringham, Stevie Ray Dallimore, Kirsten Cowal, Jeanine McAdam

Saturday, February 2 from 1 to 5pm was tentatively set as a date for the vision retreat which will probably be held at the school.

Marci Stringham (MS) indicated that we have not yet heard back from Ms. Chory regarding the legality of accepting advertising for the Backpack News. Kirsten Cowal (KC) indicated that she has not heard back from Nicky Rosen – whom she emailed – on the issues of advertising and of omitting summaries of general meetings on the BPN.

The next BPN is slated to go out on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submissions is January 20<sup>th</sup>. MS asked for ideas and input for the content of the next BPN. A recap of the math games before the next general meeting and the President's Message were mentioned. KC wondered if there should be a description of some of the discussion going on in the SLT that Francesca Di Mauro (FDM) described at the previous general meeting regarding the long term agenda for a new direction for learning and teaching at the school. MS asked Jeanine McAdam (JM) if she thought that the fundraising committee would want to have a feature on the fundraising/strategic planning process and JM thought that they might.

After some discussion it was decided to keep the summary of the general meeting in the BPN until there is a clear idea of what is desired in its place. Stevie Ray Dallimore (SRD) noted that the Executive Board may need to vote at some point on whether space should be allocated to advertising or meeting summaries. MS reiterated that she needs an answer from Ms. Chory by January 15<sup>th</sup> because that is when she promised to give information to someone (a camp director) who had inquired about the possibility of advertising. MS noted that she has seen the BPN of other schools that have advertising on them so it is something that is done. JM wondered if we might be able to get an answer from the UPA. Kathy Brito (KB) is friends with the secretary at Mott Hall and will try to contact this person to see if we can get any useful information.

KC mentioned that she had left a message for Rebecca Alicea from the District office regarding the issue of whether there are regulations regarding the need for meeting summaries to be included in the BPN. JM noted that the hurdle right now is figuring out what body can give approval. At JM's request, the next agenda item that was discussed was the pledge letter since there were some parallels with the previous discussion. JM gave an account of the status of the pledge letter which is as follows: before the holidays the pledge letter went to Ms. Chory for approval and she indicated that she wanted to pass it by the legal department at the Board of Education and expected that it would only take a few days. The momentum for the letter going out before the end of the year was lost so after school restarted JM emailed Ms. Chory on Wednesday or Thursday of last week and then spoke to her in person. Ms. Chory said that she was told by the legal department to not send the letter. JM asked Ms. Chory for a reason noting that the PA would certainly want to know why approval wasn't granted to send out the letter. Ms. Chory asked for a few days to seek clarification. JM emailed Ms. Chory again earlier this week and has still not heard back from her.

JM mentioned that Ms. Chory had indicated that Rebecca Alicea might be able to provide some relevant information. KC will try to reach Ms. Alicea to ask her about advertising on the BPN and the pledge letter. JM offered her opinion that Ms. Chory is not intentionally withholding information but that she simply does not have the answer or any information at this time.

KB noted that Ms. Chory wants to have breakfast with the Executive Board and the SLT on January 25<sup>th</sup> and that might be a good time to touch base with her about the various issues that are up in the air.

The dues letter that SR drafted and KC and MS revised was reviewed and the changes – particularly MS's – were noted with approval. JM suggested adding a \$250 check off option and that idea was approved. It was agreed that the letter would be circulated at the fundraising committee meeting following the Executive Board meeting for their input.

Regarding the review of the bylaws, MS and SRD noted that they had talked briefly with Michael LaCombe who spearheaded the bylaws revision process last year with Judith Michael. He is willing to talk to Board members about the process and how it would be best presented to the PA membership. Because the next general meeting agenda is already quite full it was decided that he would be invited to the next Executive Board meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> to give an overview. KC expressed some concern that there may not be enough time left in this school year to be able to undertake the process according to current guidelines for this exercise.

MS provided an update on the e-group. She received email from Jessica indicated that it would be easier than she initially thought to link the e-group to the web site. An administrator and moderator will be needed in order for this to happen. Rick Brown will be approached since there is some indication of his willingness to be the administrator. KC will be the moderator. MS will forward the email to all of the Board members. It is expected and hoped that the transition from the yahoo group to the web site can be accomplished by February. Jessica noted in her email that it is possible to transfer the yahoo group to the web site but that it would be preferably to have parents re-enlist.