

**C.S. Lewis Academy**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2009**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER – 7:39, excuse Gwen – new baby, Tracy to be late, Reba chair.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT – Diane Samudio**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of minutes – not submitted, postpone approval to next meeting
- Bills
  - April expenses – not submitted, postpone approval to next meeting
  - YTD expenses \$1,572,036.16

**PUBLIC FORUM, BID OPENINGS, AWARDS, AND APPOINTMENTS**

Mariah Hawes – leave Mr. Laird teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**REPORT OF PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)** – very successful year, looking for board members, Marilyn Roberts President, looking for volunteer coordinators, historian, secretary

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- School Lunch program – Kristi Hansen could not attend tonight – nothing new, depends on budgeting, Kristi attending training in June.
- Special Ed Safe Room/ Portable Classroom – two double portables, 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, one room open to accommodate growth or possibly a Spanish room.
- Board Member Elections – 2 applicants so far, 2 positions open – we will have an election, each individual will need one vote; if others are interested, we can still accept new applicants.
- Marketing/ Enrollment – in progress

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 2008-2009 School Year Budget Revision – June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, no need to approve now
- Request to open positions – Assistant to the Director– take over roles – assessment, Title One, front desk asst., Business Manager duties; Teacher & Student Services – replace Rhiannon – double as Part time librarian/special ed (use special ed funding for the position); have a business manager part time included in our budget currently. Nadia can't possibly take on any more. Prioritizing for the second person in budgets.
- School Year reduction – teachers are in favor (OK anyway) with reducing contract days by 5 days; students are only shorted one day (last day of school). Two before school starts, two in middle, one – last day. Save \$6,000 per day by reducing days. Unanimous approval.
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – plan to have two new hire teachers teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade (Ms. Bradshaw, Ms. Tagg), move Mr. Laird to 5<sup>th</sup> grade with Mrs. Watkins. How does it help the students to move an experienced teacher from 6<sup>th</sup> grade and put two inexperienced teachers in the grade? The two new teachers are remarkable. Mr. Finch “I know that Mr. Laird & Mrs. Watkins will work great together. It is in the best interest of the school to do this. Mr. Laird is flexible with either grade. It is stressful not knowing, he trusts the decision, has never taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade before, it's his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in 6<sup>th</sup> grade so his comfort zone is there, but it's always good to have a new challenge. Mrs. Watkins is not opposed to working with Mr. Laird, she interviewed one of the new teachers, is very impressed – she will be great. No questions by the board that new teachers are going to be great, why do we want to move an experienced teacher? Everything can be covered through the mentoring process. Ms. Sorensen is available to mentor and Mrs. Tagg, both who have taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade at CSLA. Parent, Reyna Killian – want to see Mr. Laird remain in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Her son needs an experienced teacher with special ed experience. The students in this grade have had a tough year for two years now with teachers they have had. We need to have something to tell parents why we are doing this to give them a comfort level – will be discussed in executive session. Nine students have threatened to leave if this is done. Mr. Killian – common sense needs to rule – two inexperienced teachers together is not good – you don't place a rookie with a rookie. It doesn't make sense. Our track record has shown success with putting two new teachers together, but we were in a position of no choice then as a new school. We do have options now. Parent – request to have Mr. Laird in 5<sup>th</sup> grade because there are several students with special needs who will benefit from his experience. New teachers won't be able to handle them as well. Discussion – there are special needs students in every grade. There are a larger number going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade as compared to any other grade. Lincoln - Ultimately we need to decide whose decision this is. If anyone thinks a principal would only consider experience in making the decision, it would be foolish.

- Facility Expansion – options of adding to building, portables – expanding the building not a viable option now.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, STAFF, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES**

- Director – CBT scores – 7<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> – other grades doing paper testing. 7<sup>th</sup> grade finished – great raw scores. Testing going well, no glitches. Teachers are excited for next year, making plans, all teachers but one returning next year. A lot of time has been spent on core subjects. Scantron helps identify where weaknesses are. Grades will be sent home the last day of school.

Nadia's computer has been out for 2 weeks, difficult to know exact enrollment. 375 at latest count – 50 student wash expected. Filled 55 spots in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, four on waiting list. Lincoln will make sure computer problems are fixed!

1<sup>st</sup> grade - we will have three 1<sup>st</sup> grades – one will be “transitional” although the term isn't really good because we need some students at level to be peer models. Miss Kunkel will teach this class.

Haven't hired third 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher yet, may need to hire a new 4<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher based on enrollment.

- Business Manager – Lincoln – sorry, no April numbers on report, formatting errors & difficulties reconciling with direct deposit – bank takes out differently. Library inventory systems priced much lower than expected – Resource Mate \$350 – one time setup fee & annual fee; need scanners & barcodes – total less than \$1,000. Buy now. Expense is low – will work into revised budget.
- Chair turned over to Tracy.

## **REPORTS BY PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS – none.**

Vote to approve revised amended calendar for next year – unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION Entered 8:49PM** (May be called to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual). Request by parent to be present in session – not necessary to be there, board will come back after executive session. Request that Ms. Sorensen, Mr. Laird, Mrs. Watkins be available to be called in if necessary.

**RECONVENE 9:17PM** This board acts under policy governance setting policies for ourselves and for the director. Our director is someone we support and we try to stay out of personnel issues.

Publicly we want to say that we appreciate Ms. Sorensen and support all her efforts. We hope she will continue to be here year after year and keep our teachers coming back.

There have been some issues and concerns about how teachers placements & how they have been assigned. Once again, we support the director and how he wants to place his personnel. He is our coach and we are not going to undermine the coach. We support how he has put together his team.

Next year is going to be great. We had a lot of applicants for the positions open. We got to pick the best of the best.

We appreciate the parents coming out to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT – motion Reba, unanimous 9:23PM**