

Convened at Muddy Creek Charter School

Inavale Community Partners Board Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

Present: Dan Hays, Morning McCreary, Kriste York, Tanya Freeman, Anita Grunder, Erik Swartzendruber, Leah Gorman, Christine Harvey (joined at 7:15)

**Summary of Vote(s) of this Meeting:**

No votes at this meeting

**Meeting Minutes Approval:**

Approved the minutes from 3/17/10 with no revisions. Motion to approve the minutes of 3/17/10 (Anita), second (Morning); passed 5,5,5.

**Public Comment:**

Erik had questions about the stream table he is building for the school regarding use of a battery charger to run the pump. Dan offered the use of his.

**Agenda Revisions:**

Agreed to add building use request for Digital Storytelling camp to Discussions.

**Reports:**

**MCCS School Report (Dan Hays):**

- **Enrollment:** No change. Enrollment is still 66
- **Incident Report:** None to report.
- **Facilities:** The district refurbished a malfunctioning lighter on the boiler.
- **Registration:** Registration is up to normal on most grades: K – 14 with 2 available to reach cap; 1<sup>st</sup>-15 with 6 additional registrants, only one of which has been contacted; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10; 4<sup>th</sup> – 9; 5<sup>th</sup> – 12. (Dan recommended leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> grade cap at 15 to avoid an enrollment bubble.) Dan noted that the issues around grade numbers are complex as the enrollment is always changing.

- Farm Outreach: Dan reported great interactions with the neighboring farmers (Venell and the Christmas tree farm to the north.) These farmers will try to only spray when school is not in session.
- Testing: Dan is waiting for the numbers for OAKS and Dibels tests and expects to be able to report on that by the next board meeting.
- Financial Report: Dan presented an overview of the budget with expenses and budgeted amounts for February and Year to Date expenditures. The board reviewed Dan's presentation and asked for the following questions to be resolved: Where is the Summer Salary fund located in the budget? Where is the carryover? For what is the money in savings designated? How much is spent YTD vs. the annual budget? What is the status on the classroom accounts? Anita noted that she was pleased to see a much more clear picture of the budget. Morning noted that monthly budgets will appear different as some expenses are not incurred monthly. Leah mentioned that she had not been given a budget for consumables; Tanya said she should have been given one long ago.

Teacher response to grade configuration discussion:

Dan reported mixed response from the teachers. Ms. Bridget is ok either way (2 or 3 grades per class). Leah would prefer to stay with 1-2-3. Kriste asked for background on the discussion. Dan responded that there had been some parent concern over 3 grades in one classroom. Kriste suggested that educating parents about the benefits of multi-age classes could take care of much of these concerns. Tanya mentioned that 3<sup>rd</sup> grad has had smaller numbers; there has been some concern that parents haven't wanted to put their 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in with younger kids. Leah mentioned that parents are sometimes concerned that older kids could have too strong an influence on younger kids, but her experience is that this does not happen. Kriste said that it is much easier for teachers to stay with the same grade configuration from year to year. She said that a 3-grade classroom can absorb enrollment bubbles and dips better than other configurations. Leah said much work has gone into the 1-2-3 program and it could be disheartening to drop that. She has experienced the program getting stronger this year. She noted that 1-2-3 is a program and would require professional development for teachers. Morning asked how adding a 6<sup>th</sup> grade would affect the configuration. Kriste and Leah had input about which grade configurations were difficult because of the standards they were working towards. (3-4, 4-5-6). Dan reported that his past experiences with multi-age classrooms resulted in teacher burnout.

?????Anita mentioned that next year's 509J calendar will have 8 early release days to allow for staff development. The board deferred discussion as to whether to follow this until later. Dan will get feedback from the staff.

Charter Renewal Process. Anita, Dan, and Morning are on the renewal committee. Anita reported that parent Terina Maclachlain (sp?) expressed strong interest in being on the committee. **AI-1: Morning** will organize a chart of what needs to happen for the renewal process. At the 4/13 meeting with the 509J board (?) a timeline will be developed for the renewal process.

8:23

Anita called for discussion on the content of the MCCS report for the 4/5 509J meeting. This will include: enrollment, budget projection, figures on how much MCCS contributes to 509J, noting that MCCS has met deadlines, testing results, showing community involvement, showing some curriculum and partnerships with organizations such as "Freshwater Trust" (?) **AI-2: Anita and Christine** will prepare a document to share with the 509J board.

Anita questioned again whether to report to 509J whether MCCS is considering requesting adding 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Christine said we had agreed to, depending on survey results. Anita reported the survey results showed about 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of parents are in favor. Anita will tell 509J that parents are interested so MCCS is considering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

There was further discussion about grade configuration and adding 6<sup>th</sup> or 6-7-8. Morning brought up that in order to be approved for 6<sup>th</sup> grade we would have to show that adding a grade would be best for the school. Tanya mentioned that 509J doesn't like the K-6 model.

8:40

Hiring of 4/5 teacher: Dan mentioned that at this time of the year more teachers are available and we could consider beginning the hiring process. Kriste York reported that her neurosurgeons said she should not work for at least 1 year, and she said we should look at moving on to hiring a new teacher.

Dan mentioned that in his experience the Head Teacher / ED model is difficult to make work well. Kriste agreed. Leah said without a head teacher there needs to be a decision-making structure for curriculum. Anita is OK with changing the model, but someone would have to uphold the curriculum. Christine mentioned that currently the ED is a business manager, but parents want a principal.

Christine brought up Kriste's medical leave. Anita said Dan is authorized to keep Kriste on medial leave.

Kriste offered to be involved in the hiring process for a 4/5 teacher.

Christine mentioned we need to talk about pay/financial structure before hiring. Need to resolve head teacher compensation first.

**AI-3: Dan** will create a proposal as to how to attract a quality 4/5 lead/head teacher for the board to review.

The board agreed to revisit the leadership model and grade 6 discussion at a later date.

9:05

Building Use Request:

Kriste introduced the Digital Storytelling Workshop as a weeklong workshop. Participants would be adults. She said there would be some remuneration for MCCS.

**AI-4: Morning** will check with the insurance about any other issues. The board agreed in principal to grant the request.

9:13

Board Self Review: Morning has sent the form from the Board Accountability Policy.

**AI-5: Board** will give Morning the responses from the review by 4/17. Christine asked whether it was important to have an outside party review the results. **AI-6: Anita** will give the community board review questions to the board for review.

9:20 Christine and Leah leave.

Morning brought up that the board members need to set aside time to work on charter renewal.

Upcoming discussion will include board recruitment.

Erik mentioned interest in joining the board.

9:27 Adjourned