

School Board Meeting
Regular
Tuesday, August 28, 2007
7:15 pm – Library

Present: David Henry (DH, Director), Marjon Tuinsma (MT), Rob van Doeselaar (RD), Olivier Verstraeten (OV), Kellie Lartigue (KL), Christy Bennett (CB), Lisa Nichols (LN), Stephanie Syptak (SS, Ambassador's Rep)

Absent: Betsy Wagenhauser (BW)

Others present: Jeff Mortelette (JM, Teachers Rep), Jan Derpak (Principal)

I. Opening

A. Call to order 7:15

B. Approval of minutes for June 5th meeting. All in favor – 6

II. Action Items – None

III. Information Items

A. Teachers report

Rachel S. is preparing another author's visit in January. Malian writer based in US (Diakite); Teachers will have more to report once they are settled in.

B. Directors Report

1. Facilities update

(DH) Abigail was able to finish painting in classrooms and houses in time; Grades 2-3 now have a medium size room; new room for French in upper school; Teachers lounge and office were moved

Science Lab has equipment; other equipment in container in Dakar; added fiber optics to upper school – better internet throughout the school now

2. Teacher pre-service training presented by Jan Derpak (Principal) –

Before this DH explained that Jan will be working on developing curriculum and begin the accreditation process in January.. Jan has much experience to bring to these tasks. Jan said she was impressed with the quality and commitment of the teachers which will make accreditation process easier. Workshops were held on developing reading skills, email communication, software, and school systems. Jan discussed briefly the Washington workshop for curriculum development and the Atlas Rubicon software which is an online management tool for updating curriculum.

Curriculum (definition), self study process and ascending grades protocol were discussed by Board.

Sadiola teachers participated in pre-service workshops.

3. Enrollment update (See directors report): enrollment is up this year (129)

4. Ascending grades protocol will be done with key faculty, some Board members and final report will be sent to MSA in Mid-September.

5. Laird Evans of the Middle States Association is coming one day the week of October 16th. He will visit and write up recommendations for the ascending grades study. The results are officially approved by the MSA board in February.
6. PTO: BBQ organized by PTO for Saturday, September 1. The Executive Committee of the PTO is meeting August 30th..
7. AISA conference is in Accra in October; 15 teachers would like to attend. These dates are hard dates and the October Break is planned around them.

C. Facilities update:

DH Met with Gautam who shared his experience with building the new school in Tunis. A possible swap of the Sotuba land in exchange with a smaller plot in ACI 2000 is still pending.

DH met with Kadi Ly and Mr. Diallo (M-Consulting) who are willing to do a feasibility study of the Sotuba land for the new school and only charge AISB cost.

Motion: A motion was made to move forward and hire M Consulting for a maximum of \$600 US to carry out a terms of reference which will examine the following points relative to the Sotuba land:

- Flood plains
- High voltage
- Access
- Security
- Future zoning of Sotube and Bamako development
- Distance / travel time from old/new bridges, ACI 2000
- Third bridge
- Property line and potential land tenure issues.

M consulting will look at archives, past contracts, and other feasibility reports previously carried out time permitting.

Action: Approved; All in Favor (6)

D. Finance Report

OV gave Finance committee meeting report (see minutes); Final expense figures for 06-07 will be close to revised budget made during 06-07; The approximate final deficit is 47,000 US. The reasons for the budgeted deficit have been discussed in previous minuted meetings. The October finance committee meeting will look at ways of raising funds to make up for this loss. Normally, the deficit comes out of the operating reserves. Reserves may be used; some capital and equipment investment has been made. Board may need to discuss further as OPIC might require a certain amount of reserves in order to finance the new school.

OV presented Sadiola financial statement which shows a surplus; surplus goes into main account as other income in the next budget year; need updated contract with Sadiola mining company. DH has had trouble reaching them. They also want a new contract (Sadiola mines) but it doesn't seem to be a high priority.

E. Director's Goals / Director's evaluation

Examples of other evaluation tools were discussed. DH will prepare a list of goals to present by September 6th Policy Meeting.

F. Organizational Goals

Draft discussed; RD / DH will make changes and redistribute for approval.

Adjourned: 8:55pm