

School Board Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2010
AISB Library

Present: Rick Caswell (RC), David Henry (DH) Steve Lutterbeck (SL), Kathleen Peoples (KP), Omar Saibou (OS), Monique Uwimana (MU), Claudia Vondrasek (CV), Petra Waslander (PW)

Absent: Magnus Bucht (MB)

Others Present: Lynn Robinson (LR), Teacher's Representative; Michael Deutschmann (MD), Project Manager.

Opening:

Call to order at 7:20 by OS.

*Minutes of previous meeting (1/19/2010) were approved. ALL were in favor.

Highlights of Teacher's Report (LR)

>>Classroom Without Walls was a success; great presentations and booths. The 6th grade trip went well.

>>The school celebrates Literacy Month (March) with a Spelling Bee, Reading Incentives, guest readers, Family Reading Night, a Character Parade, a Reading Chair and a celebration of Read Across America Day. Dr. Seuss will be featured. Rachel Strozetsky (2nd grade teacher) is working on an author visit for next year.

>>Projects using monies collected during the student fast in January were applied to improving the well at the school in Siby, making the playground dry enough for play and student activities. Students will cooperate with the French embassy to erect solar panels. Other requests from the Siby school are under consideration.

>>Soccer team is in Ghana-- having fun, but not likely to bring home a championship.

Director's Report: (for details, please see Board Packet handout)

>Current enrollment is 179.

>Facilities maintenance projects completed (Bus repair, Insect fogging, assorted repairs)

>DH reported on stateside activities:

-AAIE conference report. Valued elements emphasized community service, service learning, and leadership development.

-Attended Advisory committee for Middle States Accreditation

-Met with Pam Ward re: OPIC. She advises consultant to speed process.

-Meeting of the AISB Foundation

-French Curriculum revised this month.

-World Language Program was revised

-Community Service module reworked and rewritten to include "make-up" provisions.

>For 2010-11 the AISB school day for the secondary school will likely be re engineered to provide for a 5 period day, with classes 70 minutes long, with 3 classes per week/subject.

>A board training consultant, Tom Shearer (Lagos) is available and proposed for May 21 – 23.

Vice Chair Selected:

Board member Rick Caswell was nominated and voted in as Vice Chair of the Board. All were in favor.

Facilities Report:

The school building is now 35% complete, with 40 % of the structural work done. Completion is still projected at the end of July, if no slowdowns because of finances occur. The Project Manager, M. Deutschmann is preparing paperwork so submission can be immediate if OPIC disbursement happens. He is managing payments to the payments never overtake construction completion.

Finance Committee

In general, finances are on track, there are no major blips on the screen. Some money was used from Sadiola contract to buy a bus, and charges for commuting costs will now be enforced. There was discussion about the advisability of hiring a consultant to push OPIC processes. The Committee asked for, and received plenipotentiary powers to hire a consultant if they deemed the costs and benefits advantageous for the school. Given the concerns about OPIC disbursement timing, there was discussion of the need for, and content of, a message to parents about the likelihood that the move to the new school could be in December rather than in September.

Policy Committee:

Section 8 of the policy manual after its final reading, was approved with no changes. Concerns raised previously about the community service requirement were addressed through revised guidelines and regulations.

Board Training:

There was discussion of timeslots for Board training, given vacation and travel of board members. The Director will search for an available, qualified trainer for dates that will accommodate the largest number of board members.

Evaluations:

The Board's self-evaluation and Director Evaluation will take place in the next two months. The Parent and Teacher Survey will be sent out by Director and the results will be available for the April meeting.

There was no other business. A trip to the construction site for interested board members is set for Thursday, March 4.

