



Minutes

Governing Board Meeting
Imagine at Broward, Inc
D/B/A
Imagine Charter School at Broward
September 19, 2013
5:30 PM

Imagine – Broward LLC

Linda Silver (Board member)
Ilene Garland (Board Member)
Dan Tarquinio (Board Member)

Non-Board Members

Jacquelyn Vernon, Regional Director
Elsa Forthmuller, Regional Finance Director
Linda Arnold, Principal
April Leonard, Business Manager
Ross Whitley, Berman Hopkins
Matthew Gayle, Teacher
Nancy Vabre-Clewner, Teacher
Nikki Tarquinio, Parent
Elena McKay, Parent
Ron Veltman, Parent
Leslie Adams, Parent

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Mr. Tarquinio, Board Member.

Public Notice

Ms. Arnold stated that the meeting had been publicly noticed through a parent email and posted on the doors. It was also placed on the website.

Minutes

Board reviewed and approved August 2, 2013 minutes.

Principal's Report

Ms. Silver congratulated the school for receiving the National Parent Choice award. Ms. Arnold stated that we had 94% of students returned to Imagine from one year to the next.

Mr. Cristiano, a parent of a student at Imagine, is donating all equipment and labor and will apply for permits to put security cameras at all entrance doorways.

We had 10 teachers recognized for the continued employment at Imagine.

Teachers attended 2 days of professional development on August 8 & 9. It was well attended.

We have 660 Students enrolled in the elementary school. We are budgeted for 654.

On September 28 Dade Recycling will present us with our check for \$1,000 for being the highest recycler. Our school has been recycling ink cartridges and small electronics.

Our school aftercare program currently has 220 students enrolled.

Our Back to School Nights were held on September 10,11, & 12 and were very successful.

SAT Testing was completed for all students. We are waiting for the results.

We had 25 staff members attended the Imagine Mini Forum on August 7.

We had very positive parent support during the recent arrest of a teacher.

Electronic check in and check- out of students has been implemented and this will also help record volunteer hours electronically rather than manually.

The board received copies of the new 5 year Charter Agreement which was approved with the school board.

AUDIT REVIEW FOR 2012-2013

Mr. Whitley from Berman Hopkins reviewed the draft copy of the audit with the board. This year's audit was very good because of business practices at the school. All of the prior year audit findings and recommendations were corrected.

Mr. Whitley reviewed the finding regarding the discrepancy of the posting of payments from the National School Lunch Program. Mr. Tarquinio asked why there was a discrepancy with regard to the National School Lunch Program entry. Ms. Forthmuller clarified what the discrepancy was and how it will be corrected going forward.

Mr. Whitley spoke about the required communication to tell about changes in accounting practices and any new governmental practice were reviewed with the board.

Board motioned and accepted the audit of the elementary school.

GOVERNOR'S RAISES FOR TEACHERS

Mr. Gayle went over the plan when the Governor's raise for teachers is received. There are 34 elementary and 10 specials and elective teachers who are split between two schools. The elementary school may receive \$121,776.00. Each elementary teacher will receive an equal share of total money received. Specials teachers will receive a split based on their percentages between the elementary and middle school.

Ms. Silver asked how did they figure the percentage. Mr. Gayle explained they took 75% from elementary and 25% from middle. Ms. Arnold said the amount could change in October and February because it is based on the weighted FTE. The first day count was higher and we have to submit a plan to the district as soon as possible. The money could change in

February if any adjustments are made. Mr. Tarquinio asked how it will be paid to the teachers. Ms. Arnold stated it would be a raise. Ms. Vernon said we will monitor our budgets. Ms. Silver asked when would the raise go into effect. Ms. Arnold said when the district received the money then the school would receive the money. Ms. Vernon stated that our district would continue to do collective bargaining until the BTU and the school board approved it. They will not receive money from the state until they come to an agreement. Palm Beach County decided to give the charter schools the money before the money comes through. Adam Miller, Charter School Director, the state will not give the money to individual schools but rather then to the school district once collective bargaining is done. Ms. Arnold stated it has to be used towards salaries. Ms. Silver stated that if the FTE changes that could change the amount of raises that are received. Mr. Tarquinio asked how it would be allocated. Ms. Vernon said it is a gross amount. Ms. Forthmuller stated it would not be \$2,500.00 because they have to consider taxes and benefits.

Ms. Arnold explained what the letter states that Mr. Tarquinio will sign. It is a general letter to approve our plan which states the money will be equally distributed among the teachers. The money is based on weighted FTE. We will follow the rules from the district when distributing the money. Ms. Vernon stated the money in November cannot be accrued because there will be less than 26 paychecks. Ms. Forthmuller said they can calculate the raise and retro the raise from the beginning of school year.

Board motioned and approved the Governor's Teacher Allocation Salary Plan.

IMAGINE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK 2013

Ms. Vernon handed out the Academic Framework book to the board. She spoke about the 4 E's. Ms. Vernon referred to page 30 that speaks about the governing board. She stated that it is the schools job is to keep the board and all stakeholders informed about Imagine School policies and its academic framework, our mission and vision.

3% STIPEND

Ms. Arnold spoke about the 3% and it is received based on the budget being in the black as well as parent surveys. The staff received 2% in June. We had to wait until the audit was finalized before issuing the 3%. The money was accrued in the budget. There were 9 teachers that did not return and this will help the budget. The 3% will be included in the October 11 paycheck. It is a one- time payment. Board motioned and approved the 3%.

COMPENSATION PLAN FOR 2014-2015

Ms. Arnold said it is strictly for individual salary and for instructional staff only. Ms. Vernon that the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law indicates that teachers will be paid based on student achievement and teacher's evaluation. It is strictly based on performance. If there isn't any money then it cannot be given out but we still have to submit a plan. We are in the process of developing this plan. This plan is due to district by October 1 and is for the 2014-2015 school year. The plan has to be sustainable for the school. An effective teacher could possibly receive a 2% increase and a highly effective teacher a 4% increase. The VAM scores are 50% instructional practice and 50% test scores. Teachers will get marked on how well their class and their school performed. We have received no guidance for a plan. We would like the board to approve the concept that highly effective teachers receive up to a 4% raise and effective teachers receive up to 2%. Mr. Tarquinio asked why this plan has to be submitted. We are a Race to the Top school and Race to the Top will end next year. Ms. Silver asked if we are locked into percentage and Ms. Vernon stated that we are not locked in. Board motioned and approved the Compensation Plan.

OUT-OF-FIELD WAIVERS – see attached list

Ms. Arnold spoke about the out-of-field waivers. She stated a teacher remains out-of-field until the courses are completed. The teachers are required to print out all of their courses and send into the state. Once completed the state then adds the new endorsement or subject onto the teaching certificate. Mr. Tarquinio signed the out-of-field waivers.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

The district would like the student assessment contract by September 25th. Instead of billing us they are going to deduct the assessments out of our FTE. When we give BAT and CoGat tests they will charge us and will take it out of our FTE instead of sending us an invoice. Ms. Silver asked are the amounts the same if they billed you. Ms. Arnold stated that it is actually less expensive for us when they deduct from FTE. We have to pick up our assessments going forward. Prior to this they were delivered to us. Board motioned and approved.

GOVERNING BOARD VACANCY

The board will do two questions. Ms. Vernon explained the procedures for interviewing a new member. You can have 2 boards for each school but the bi-laws state we can have all 5 members on both boards. Ms. Siiver asked what the advantage is to having 2 boards. Ms. Vernon said another school has 2 boards but it is in their bi-laws. There were 5 resumes submitted and candidates were notified when the meeting date was and only 2 attended. Ms. Silver asked do we have to choose from these two or can we interview those that didn't show up later. Ms. Vernon said no because it has been advertised so long. Ms. Arnold explained resumes were received for the position. Mr. Ron Veltman and Ms. Leslie Adams were both interviewed.

The board moved and voted to add Leslie Adams to the board for both the elementary and middle school. Ms. Vernon explained the process to Ms. Adams regarding fingerprinting and governing board training so she will be ready to be an active board member at the next meeting.

Public Input

Ms. Adams asked about the Governor's money and the difference from what Mr. Gayle stated versus what the agenda said. Ms. Arnold explained it may be reduced based on the number of students and the weighted FTE. Ms. Arnold stated we had 95% attendance based on the 10 day window. Ms. Adams suggested maybe we should have a contest the week of FTE to have 100% attendance.

Board Input

Ms. Garland commended Ms. Arnold and staff for handling the situation with Mr. Zilka in a sensitive and professional way.

Board Meeting Dates

Board meetings for the rest of the school year are as follows:

- November 7, 2013 @ 5:30PM
- January 16, 2014 @ 5:30PM
- March 20, 2014 @ 5:30PM
- May 15, 2014 @ 5:30PM
- June 19, 2014 @ 5:30PM

Adjourned

Motion and moved to adjourn at 8:22 PM.



Signature, Chair of the Governing Board

Date 11/7/13