



Minutes

Governing Board Meeting
Imagine – Broward County, Inc.
D/B/A
Imagine Middle School at Broward
January 22, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Imagine – Broward LLC

Rena-Rae Kaufman (Board Chair member)
Linda Silver (Board member)
Dan Tarquinio (Board member)

Non-Board Members

Jacquelyn Vernon, Regional Director
Elsa Forthmuller, Regional Finance Director
Linda Arnold, Principal
Rod Sasse, EVP
Brooke Davidson-London, Teacher
Lisa Hammond, Teacher
Nancy Vabre-Clewner, Teacher
April Leonard, Business Manager
Nikki Tarquinio, Parent

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Ms. Kaufman.

Public Notice

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

Minutes

Board motioned to accept the amended minutes from November 7, 2013.

Principal's Report

Ms. Arnold stated our middle school enrollment is steady at 200 which is two students over our budgeted amount.

Ms. Schiling has been contacting various high schools and magnet programs regarding their open house dates for upcoming 9th grade students and distributing the information to the parents.

The State Attorney's Office held two assemblies for our Middle school students on Internet Safety.

Assemblies were held for Kids of Character and Honor Roll.

Ms. Hammond and Ms. Uveges will be taking 39 middle school students to Islands of Adventure and Sea World. They will also participate in an overnight adventure at Sea World.

Basketball and Cheerleading season is over and Track has begun.

Middle School had a successful Winter Dance and the students are in the planning stages for the Valentine's Dance.

Reenrollment forms were recently distributed to all students. Forms are required to be turned in to the office by January 24, 2014.

The Imagine Family Surveys were sent home January 21, 2014. They are due back by January 28, 2014. Ms. Arnold stated that we are going to give a voucher for one hour that parents can apply towards their volunteer hours if they turn the survey in.

Imagine mid-year Assessments and Benchmark Assessments have been completed. We have analyzed the Imagine mid-years and now we are waiting for the district BAT Results. Ms. Arnold stated that our 1st-3rd graders did well and the 3rd-8th graders did well on the lower and middle order questions but not the higher order questions. The 6th-8th graders took middle school civics and algebra. These tests are good predictors of how they will do on the FCAT.

All teachers received a retro portion of the raise from the Governor in the last paycheck in 2013. The remaining amount will be distributed throughout the remainder of this school year.

We are getting ready for the Boosterthon fundraiser activity. This year we will be doing more of the work but the benefit to more work is getting a larger percent in return. Boosterthon will put on the pep rally and fun run. The teachers, PTO and volunteers will help keep up the momentum going for pledges. Funds go directly to the school.

We are working with PTO on purchases with their extra funds. We are looking at adding additional security cameras, blinds or window tint on classroom windows, and water fountains. The Fire department made us remove all blinds and curtains due to the fact that they were not fire retardant. We are still researching prices for blinds to see what is the most cost effective. We are also looking to install two additional water fountains on the first floor near the entrances of each playground.

"Wish Upon a Star" program was successful and we were able to brighten the holidays of seven families.

Brooke Davidson-London was selected as our Teacher of the Year for 2013/2014.

Mr. Tarquinio asked if the Non-Profit Status has been designated. Ms. Forthmuller explained the LLC was under Imagine Schools umbrella. As soon as you begin the process to apply for 501C3 you can start using that status. The Inc had to apply for 501c3.

National Geography Bee competition winner at Imagine Broward was Shaun Chouinard who is a 7th grade student. He has taken the state assessment. We are waiting for the results. Ms. Clewner organized the National Geography Bee. Ms. Clewner explained what the process was for choosing who is able to attend the bee and what they are awarded if they win. Imagine Broward held its competition and there was a great turn out of students who wanted to participate. This was open to all students not just GEM students. Ms. Silver stated that is a great incentive for all students.

National Math Counts competition will be held in February. We currently have an afterschool math club to get the students prepared for the competition. Ms. Arnold explained what takes place at the math competition.

We are working with PTO on purchases with their extra funds. They have already purchased IPAD covers.

HIGH PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOL

The paperwork was completed and sent to the district. We have sent all necessary information to the School Board. Ms. Vernon stated that Ms. Jody Perry will need eight weeks to review information received. We hope to be on the February 18 or 19, 2014 School Board agenda regarding this matter. Ms. Vernon explained the high performing statute is to make sure we submit our financial reports on a quarterly basis instead of monthly. With a high performing status there is a possibility of combining the middle and elementary schools into one school. We will be having a task force to look at the possibility of combining the two schools. Ms. Kaufman asked, "What are the benefits to merging the two schools into one?" Ms. Arnold explained that we wouldn't have to do separate budgets as well as current 5th grade students would not have to reenroll for 6th grade. Ms. Silver asked, "What the financial impact is?" Ms. Arnold explained it would benefit the middle school for budget purposes because both schools would fall under one budget. The question was asked "What is the reason we have an LLC and Inc.?" Mr. Sasse explained the history behind the LLC and the Inc. We had to write a whole new application for the middle school because Broward County School wouldn't allow us to be under one. It took seven years to get the LLC status. Imagine's attorneys are reviewing all the information regarding the LLC and Inc status. Ms. Vernon stated that we are looking to have this merge completed by June prior to the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year in August 2014. The state and county view us as two separate schools but Imagine views us as one school. We would be able to have four teachers for middle school rather than three teachers. There will be notification to parents and staff if the merge takes place, as it is very important because of the possible reconfiguration of teachers.

CONTRACT FOR VENTURE DESIGN

The school system is offering charter schools various services for which they charge a fee. For example you can contract for health screenings, behavioral counselors and social workers. There is a minimum charge of \$500 whether you use the services or not. It was decided that it was late in the school year and since we have other persons who can provide the services, we would not sign a contract at this time.

IRS 990

Ms. Forthmuller explained that the auditors had to go back and re file the 990's for 2009 - 2011 due to the exempt status. Mr. Tarquinio asked if they were amended returns. Ms. Forthmuller stated they were amended due to auditor error.

GOVERNING BOARD TERMS

Ms. Vernon stated she did research on the terms and it is in the bylaws as well in the middle school article 5.3. A governing board member has to remain off the board for a year before returning as board member. Ms. Vernon spoke about the beginning and ending terms. Imagine Schools would like us to stagger the terms of board members so not everyone goes off board at one time. The board members are required to renew certification once every three years.

A+ PLAN

Ms. Arnold announced that the Middle School was an A school. We are not yet aware of the amount. We have to have a plan submitted by February 1, 2014. Ms. Vernon said the principals received the information to submit a plan last week. She also explained how the voting works with regard to the A+ money. She stated that only the middle school staff can vote and the plan has to be approved by the board. Ms. Clewner explained their plan was to distribute the A+ money to the current active six teachers as well as include 11 support staff members. Only active teachers that are still here at Imagine will receive monies. Ms. Silver and Ms. Kaufman commented that the split of the funds to the support staff was commendable. Mr. Tarquinio asked how the split would be divided. Ms. Clewner stated that 75% of the funds will be split equally among the six active teachers and 25% equally split among the 11 support staff and specials teachers. Ms. Clewner stated that the new teachers have been great addition to the team. Mr. Tarquinio asked if we knew what the funds would be for the A+ money. Ms. Arnold said that have not been made aware of the amount as of today. Ms. Vernon stated that the funds have not yet appeared online. Ms. Forthmuller said the DOE has questioned whether the funds would even be given out.

Mr. Tarquinio and the Board made motioned to approve the A+ plan if the funds are distributed as follows: 75% of the funds will be split equally among the six active teachers and 25% equally split among the 11 support staff and specials teachers.

The Board voted to accept the plan.

BUDGET

Mr. Tarquinio inquired about the projected plus on the budget. Ms. Forthmuller explained about the fund and modified balance. Ms. Forthmuller explained about the financial with projects not really amended. This budget will need to be amended for the next meeting. Once the Governors raise is adjusted on the budget, it will show a more accurate funding amount. Mr. Tarquinio inquired about the Governors raise money in the budget. Ms. Forthmuller explained that the teachers received a retro check in December that was calculated from August thru December. Going forward they will receive a biweekly stipend. This money was not able to be calculated into the budget until recently because the funds were just received. Ms. Vernon stated that the school needs to keep the unencumbered funds just in case because the building is getting older. Mr. Tarquinio asked about the June budget because of teachers salaries. Ms. Forthmuller explained that June is large because we have to accrue June, July and half of August salaries. No vote needed because this is just information.

FUNDRAISERS

Mr. Tarquinio asked about fundraising opportunities. We have had McDonald's fundraiser night as well as monthly \$1 dress down days. Ms. Arnold explained that Boosterthon is one of our more profitable fundraisers. Ms. Vernon asked if we have done "dough nights" as another fundraiser. Ms. Arnold stated that we have done a "dough nights" fundraiser with Pepperoni Grill. Our next McDonald's fundraiser night is scheduled for February 20. Mr. Tarquinio said that the event based fundraisers promotes school spirit. The middle school will have movie night fundraisers in the future. The middle school students enjoy the dances rather than fundraisers. The middle school business class does well with the candy carts and the store is run by students.

Regional Input

Ms. Vernon spoke about the support and services Imagine Schools receive from the Region and Corporate offices. Rod's Group has a Group Academic Director (GAD), Ms. Judy Muth. She works with the curriculum coaches in Rod's Group and provides professional development. She also writes an article once a month called "Imagine Insights". Ms. Karen Gayle who is on the National Education and Achievement team for Imagine Schools also writes about how to "Inspire", a short paper which focuses on our literacy initiative to the Imagine staff. "Noteworthy" is written by VP of Communication and she also sends out press releases. Ms. Vernon stated she wanted to keep the Governing Board informed of what happens at Imagine Schools.

Public Input

None

Board Input

None

Adjourned


Motion and moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

March 20, 2014 @ 5:30 PM

May 15, 2014 @ 5:30 PM

June 19, 2014 @ 5:30 PM



Signature, Chair of Governing Board

Date: 3/20/14