

South Carolina Calvert Academy  
Founding Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2009

In Attendance:

Susan Frew (by phone)  
Steve Brown  
Mike Wilmeth  
Lisa LoVullo

Jean Halle  
Randy Wilgis (by phone)  
Sally Birmingham  
Alexandria Gillcrese

Tammy Wyatt (by phone)  
Secaida Howell (by phone)

Randy Wilgis opened the meeting at 11:08am.

The board approved the minutes from the September 17, 2009 meeting.

Operations:

Mr. Brown opened the meeting with an operations report. All remaining computer requests are now in the process of shipping to the families. Fifty percent of the writing tablets have arrived in the warehouse and the remainder should arrive today or tomorrow. Once all tablets have reached the warehouse they will be shipped and should arrive in the family homes by next Thursday.

Mr. Brown stated all agreements have been signed by Mr. Wilgis except the services agreements. Mr. Wilgis mentioned he needs to sign the partner agreement. Mr. Wilgis will be in Baltimore next week and asked to set up an appointment with Mr. Brown to discuss the budget and unsigned agreements.

Marketing Update and 2010 Budget:

Ms. LoVullo reported on the marketing plan for school year 2010. Marketing will be producing a new school brochure that has room to add enrollment forms for parents. A draft of the new brochure will be sent to Dr. Howell by the end of next week. Marketing plans to rollout live and web based information sessions about South Carolina Calvert Academy. The live information sessions will take place in major cities around South Carolina. Dr. Howell requested enrollment begin December 1<sup>st</sup>. Marketing will continue to issue press releases as information about staff and the school comes out. Mr. Wilgis asked if the new brochure and marketing literature was going to include information about providing hardware to the students. Ms. LoVullo said at this time language regarding hardware has not been placed in marketing material.

After the marketing plan report a discussion opened about the budget and being able to provide hardware to all families next school year. Mr. Brown stated at this time that he does not think South Carolina Calvert Academy will be able to fund providing each family with hardware next year. Ms. Halle suggested looking at the circumstances to see who would be provided a computer and who would not be provided a computer.

Mr. Wilgis stated two action items were to: 1) clearly define the services and line items South Carolina Calvert Academy might need to adjust based on budget cuts and; 2) go the Charter School District Board and ask them for grace regarding the original charter approved stating South Carolina Calvert Academy would provide each family with hardware at no cost.

#### Headmaster Report:

Dr. Howell stated there are 261 students enrolled with the possibility of gaining 4 more enrollments. Dr. Howell stated his concerns about the need for more training for his teachers in the Verticy program. He feels this is needed in order to teach Verticy more effectively. Mr. Wilgis expressed concern about the inconsistency between what CES is telling enrolling families and the actual implementation of the Verticy program at SC-CAL. Ms. Halle stated there are three issues regarding the Verticy program at South Carolina Calvert Academy: 1) the curriculum being aligned and assigned to teachers; 2) the way the students are assigned to the teachers, and; 3) the lack of Verticy training. The board agreed for the time being not to accept any more students into the Verticy program due to capacity reasons. The school will have continued availability in regular enrollments and will have a special education teacher assess the needs on any student with a learning difference. CES and SC-CAL agreed to work together starting next week on resolving Verticy training and implementation issues.

Dr. Howell went on to discuss Verticy funding and the school budget. Dr. Howell stated when we get Verticy students the school is not getting special funding from the state because Verticy students are not necessarily classified as special education. Ms. Halle asked Dr. Howell to look into other ways SC-CAL might be able to receive funding for these students. Mr. Wilgis suggested to Dr. Howell that they sit down next week to talk about the school budget and funding.

Dr. Howell reported on the Charter School Board meeting he attended earlier in the morning. Dr. Howell reported to the Charter School Board that SC-CAL had a short fall in budget due to lack of enrollment. The board agreed to fund the school \$12,600 a month to help with the shortfall. Mr. Wilgis asked for the board's approval of this debt being incurred and the board approved this motion. Dr. Howell stated there was no indication from the Charter School Board of future budget cuts. If budgets were to be cut further SC-CAL would still be obligated to uphold their original charter. If the original charter could not be upheld SC-CAL would have to go to the district board and ask them to consider allowing changes to the original charter. Mr. Wilgis suggested SC-CAL craft a letter to the Charter School Board regarding certain items we would not be able to provide next year due to budget constraints. Mr. Wilgis expressed a desire to have some flexibility regarding services provided by SC-CAL.

#### Board Election Schedule:

Mr. Wilgis asked how many new board member applications have been submitted. Mr. Wilmeth stated only one application has been submitted and that CES can more proactively solicit by email campaign and posting to homepage in order to gain more applications.

Dr. Howell opened a discussion about the SC-CAL Facebook page. Dr. Howell does not feel comfortable with some of the postings and advertising on the page and suggested taking the Facebook page down. Mr. Wilmeth stated that the advertising on the Facebook page is different for each person logging on because advertising is based on the demographic of the person logging in. Mr. Wilmeth said that CES will be monitoring the Facebook page more closely and will be taking down any negative posts. The board agreed to leave the Facebook page up as long as CES agrees to monitor the page closely.

501(c)(3) Status:

Mr. Moores sent the application to Dr. Howell. Dr. Howell has forwarded the document to council for review and the next transaction.

The board meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm. The board went into executive session immediately following.