



Minutes – Approved
Ocean Charter School Special Board Meeting
May 6, 2008

Ocean Charter School
12606 Culver Blvd., Los Angeles 90066

Called to Order 6:10 pm by Joan Wicks, Board Chairman

Present: Lori Andrade, Jeannie Elmstrom, Jason Haas, Liz Koravos, Beth Rendeiro, Peter Samaranayake, Wendy Teeter, Leo Trujillo-Cox, Joan Wicks, and Julie Yarnall.

Absent: Dean Kubani and Cissy Stanford.

A quorum was present.

Finance

The Board reviewed the OCS 2008-2009 budget draft submitted by the Finance Committee and began recommendation discussions to advise the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee members Andrea Reibsamen, Fran Montano and Debra Bryant were present.

Joan Wicks reviewed income and funding streams. The Finance Committee proposed 94% ADA compared to the industry standard of 95%, and no SB740 (Facilities reimbursement). Tammy Stanton of Excellent Education discussed the expected 6.5% decrease and delay of SB740 funding.

The Board and community discussed ways to increase revenue such as fundraising, increasing class size in grades 4 through 8, and adding more classes per grade. The cost of Proposition 39 facilities was clarified. This year LAUSD will charge \$6.83 per square foot, plus 3% of ADA for oversight fees, and a weighted calculation for shared space.

Wendy Teeter reviewed the expense categories. She clarified OCTA faculty members' salary increases are based on the salary step schedules in the current OCTA contract.

ACTION ITEM: Julie Yarnall will follow up again with the faculty to see if any OCTA member will complete any certification or professional development for 2008-2009.

The Board and community discussed the challenges associated with maintaining a sustainable Specialty Program.



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ACTION ITEM: Wendy Teeter, Tedra Dobbs, Greg Wong and Ran Boytner will map out the Specialty Program through 2013 when OCS would be at full enrollment to show how programs may be cut now but be added back in later years.

A full-time math support position is budgeted. An additional yard supervisor was added.

The Board and community discussed the growing expense of providing full-family benefits at no cost to full-time employees.

Tammy Stanton recommended that OCS become WASC-accredited for funding qualifications.

Liz Koravos asked about raises for office staff and discussed equity of increases.

Open Forum (Opportunity for Public Comments)

The Board and community discussed cash flow and how the school strives to maintain a bank balance that covers a few months of \$200,000 in monthly expenses such as rent and payroll for when funding is delayed or decreased. A loan was acquired to create this position and we are paying it back over several years.

Attendees discussed ways to inform the community about the 2008-2009 budget issues.

Jason Haas offered that balancing a proposed budget with a \$400,000 deficit would require more than program cuts. He suggested a possible solution was to increase class size but recognized that OCTA would need to agree.

Leo Trujillo-Cox discussed how increasing class size could impact the children's educational experience.

Fran Montano suggested that a smaller group made up of Finance, Board members, Administration, faculty and parents meet to discuss various options to balance the budget. He emphasized the value of an OCS education.

Julie Yarnall discussed targeted fundraising to fund particular Specialty classes.

Nancy O'Rourke suggested that with parent education and Administrative enforcement we could achieve ADA of 95%, increasing funding by approximately \$30,000. Jeannie Elmstrom stated that each day a student is absent costs the school \$50 in funding.



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Liz Koravos supported reflecting certain grants on the Grants line item to allow for a greater fundraising amount.

Jody Labb suggested that we educate our community on the importance of the Pledge Drive to maintain our educational program.

Joan Wicks confirmed that the Pledge Drive package addressed the \$1,000 per student gap between state funding and the cost of an OCS education.

Ran Boytner discussed alternative administrative structures.

Individuals volunteered to meet on May 10, 2008 as the Shared Stakeholders Budget committee to draft a budget proposal to recommend to the Board. They include: Liz Koravos, Fran Montano, Andrea Reibsamen, Beth Rendeiro, Kristy Mack-Fett, Karen Fenswick, and Charlie Francis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Lori Andrade, Secretary
OCS Board of Trustees