

WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, March 11, 2010

Signature of Board President: _____

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms Nachman, Mr. VanHoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Galin, Mr. Madison, Ms. Pershy, Ms. Leinbach

NON VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rentz, Mr. Trocki

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm in The Glade.

I. The Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Nachman noted that there will not be a vote on the cocurricular policy during today's meeting. Some work still needed to be done on the policy.

II. Public Comment

	Comments: Woods teacher Ms. Scholle discussed class size and wanted to make sure not to increase it.
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III. Consent Agenda

Principal's Report Presented by: H. Rentz Written Report provided	Additional Discussion: Rob Powell worked with the Chatham Abuse Prevention Policy. Will lead education sessions with seventh and eighth graders about harassment and sexual bullying. Ninth and tenth graders will discuss how to deal with sexual violence. There will be teacher training about bullying Thanks to Mr. Trocki for incorporating several items into his faculty and student reports. He has also done a great job of polling faculty for their input. One snow make-up day on March 22, 2010 with an 11:30 am dismissal. There have been two accidents at the dangerous intersection on Woodland Grove Lane and Andrews Store road involving Woods families. There have been discussions with Briar Chapel and Chatham County about accidents on Andrews Store Road. Sugar Creek Ruling puts pressure on local school districts to allocate appropriate resources to charter schools as required by law. Mr. Rentz has already drafted a letter to counties in which Woods students reside. Ann Kaiyala has some summer activities planned at Woods this summer. We need to pay close attention to teacher salaries and the budget as all
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	schools face concerns about state funding.
Contracts Presented by: H. Rentz	Additional Discussion: No contracts to discuss
Action Taken: Motion to approve consent agenda made by Ms. Perschy. Seconded by Mr. VanHoy. Passed unanimously.	

IV. Reports

Student Report Presented by: Alston Neville	<p>Additional Discussion: With the end of the third quarter approaching students worry about work piling up at the end of the quarter. Seek possibly better coordination between teachers on assignments.</p> <p>The high school variety show will take place next week. The Youth General Assembly is coming next week. General assembly will be taking place at Raleigh. Seniors are going to Davis Library to work on their projects.</p>
Faculty Update Presented by: A. Trocki	<p>Additional Discussion: Parent put up garden box. Hope to reap fruits of labor if deer don't eat everything. The Woods art show coming up. French will continue into the 5th grade. Forms will be going to parents for choice. Students wish to have one more basketball goal on paved area outside the school. There is a concern among faculty about a possible push to increase class size in the elementary school level. Each class has about 14% EC students. Faculty wish to avoid increasing class sizes.</p> <p>Could increasing parent volunteer hours help with the faculty work load? Teachers feel that they are underpaid and their concerns should be addressed.</p> <p>Woods community raised over \$1,500 for Haiti relief.</p> <p>In the near future there will be an 8th grade fun night fundraiser.</p> <p>Salary, workload, schedules are primary concerns.</p> <p>For high school faculty want to be part of decision making process, i.e. scheduling for next year. Class sizes are a concern. The faculty would like to see an absolute cap on high school classes, as well as a minimum.</p> <p>Lisa Ray is doing math internship. Karen Goetz is on maternity leave.</p> <p>There will be a karaoke fundraiser tomorrow night. Students will go to Playmakers on March 17.</p> <p>Comments that teachers made in the survey: "I love the environment in which I teach." "I do not understand why there is not a base salary. Want Woods to compete with neighboring schools." "Love Woods community, but demands are excessive." "Saying that we love our teachers is not enough." "Really like my schedule. Like my work</p>

	environment.” Mr. Van Hoy asked about the participation rate in the faculty survey. Mr. Trocki noted that 44 of 65 faculty responded.
Treasurer’s Report Presented by: David Madison	Mr. Madison reported that Woods is pretty much on track for this year’s budget.
WCS Foundation Report Presented by: JoAnn Armstrong	Additional Discussion: Ms. Armstrong reported that the foundation started out with over \$84,000. There is a remaining balance of \$71,000.
Facilities & Grounds Presented by: Adrienne Leinbach	Additional Discussion: Mr. Malone asked for volunteers to help put out the mulch. There are plans to level off the field behind the soccer field and to put in the field track.
Policy Committee Report Presented by: M. Van Hoy	Additional Discussion: The co-curricular participation policy will be discussed in business section of the meeting
Chair’s update Presented by: Dee Nachman	Additional Discussion: None

V. Business

Reminder	Upcoming meeting dates – 4/15 (3rd Thursday)
Minutes for February 11, 2010 Discussion and vote	Additional Discussion: There are plans to ask that Mr. Trocki’s faculty report be delivered in written and electronic form, like the principal’s report, in the future.
Action Taken: Mr. Galin made motion to remove Mr. VanHoy from the meeting as having attended and to approve the February 11, 2010 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Perschy. Motion passed by all.	
Co-curricular Participation Policy	<p>Additional Discussion: No vote will be taken today. There is still a need to have a public forum about the policy. The policy should be ready to be voted on next month. There will be a meeting about the policy on March 30 at 5pm. Submit comments by the 30th.</p> <p>Mr. Rentz explained that a student has to have a weighted average of 2.0 to participate in Woods activities.</p> <p>Ms. O’Gorman liked that students can be part of the activity minimally.</p> <p>A question was asked about how activities and students were monitored. Mr. Rentz explained that monitoring to be done by all.</p>

<p>Upcoming board elections Discussion</p>	<p>Additional Discussion: A timeline was mentioned. Ms. Nachman suggested that the board recommend skills and talents that the board may need or are losing. At the April meeting the board will discuss what we will not have based on what members are staying and leaving. Ms. Nachman hopes to identify areas of expertise.</p> <p>Mr. VanHoy noted that there is not a prerequisite for running. Anyone who is eligible can run.</p> <p>Ms. Nachman brought up a part of the application that she recommends changing at the next meeting. She will present the changes and ask for a vote at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Preliminary 2010-11 Budget Discussion</p>	<p>Additional Discussion: Mr. Rentz pointed out some of the financial assumptions being made there. Woods needs to prioritize on faculty salaries and movement toward equitable and transparent faculty scale. Big projects are an investment in the future of an institution.</p> <p>Federal government monies are being used for three teacher salaries. \$180,000 is being used for salaries that might disappear in 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>Wood will be reaching the maximum level of bond repayment next year. Woods may look to the Foundation to cover the costs of books, instructional materials, and professional development, etc.</p> <p>There is some money that can be used for teacher salaries. Long-term Woods has to be careful about how we spend these monies.</p> <p>We have good working relationships with accountants, auditors and bondholders' representatives.</p> <p>Woods has to maintain a range of \$0 to \$200,000 in the black to meet our financial commitments. Mr. Madison stated Woods has been operating under the assumption that we need to have \$200,000 in reserve every year. Ms. Nachman pointed out that reserve withdrawals can damage Woods' bond ratios.</p> <p>Mr. Madison had concerns about the Woods Foundation bringing in \$100,000. For example, Mr. Madison mentioned that school bus "fair share" was budgeted at \$28,000. This amount, which is <u>not</u> being met currently, represents about 50% of what it actually costs to operate transportation. Bus sign-ups suggested that "fair share contributions" would cover about 80% of costs. It might be an inappropriate assumption that the Foundation can generate \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year.</p> <p>Ms. O'Gorman mentioned that the strategic planning is hoping in part to raise awareness for the need to raise money.</p> <p>An audience member wondered how many parents are really meeting the volunteer hour requirement. There appears to be a sense of</p>

	<p>entitlement that this is a public school and the government will take care of this. The government does not pay for the building and that parents need to be more aware and more willing to volunteer.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to implement the use of a classroom parent at Woods. A classroom parent was part of the support structure at the Cole Park Plaza location.</p> <p>Ms. O’Gorman recommended using the Woods newsletters to continuously remind parents of the need for volunteer time and assistance.</p> <p>Mr. Madison pointed out that salaries and bonuses for next year are the same as they are for this year. Mr. Rentz noted that \$100,000 is in the budget to use or not use for salaries and bonus.</p> <p>Mr. Madison asked about how teacher salaries compare to other systems. Ms. Scholle mentioned that a bonus is perceived as a gift. You don’t count on bonuses and supplements.</p> <p>Ms. O’Gorman mentioned that faculty would like to see the base salary go up. There is a loyalty associated with a base pay raise. You want to be paid a bit more. You want a consistent sense of loyalty. You want a community of strong teachers. 89% want a salary raise.</p>
<p>Strategic Planning Process Discussion</p>	<p>Additional Discussion: Strategic planning process is being led by Mr. Rentz and Ms. Nachman. There are 2.5 pages of bullets in the preliminary report. There are about 15 people in Woods involved.</p> <p>This strategic plan would go on to the community through more than just the school board meeting. Seeking general guidance from the non-profit perspective.</p> <p>Mr. Rentz believes money follows vision.</p> <p>Once we know the constituency of the new board we might want to schedule a board development retreat in the July timeframe.</p> <p>The strategic plan committee might want to produce a document the first year. This document will reflect the input from various segments of the community.</p> <p>Mr. Rentz was asked about volunteerism and the need for more of it. For example, those who help in the lunch room do three hours per day. Need six volunteers to help things run well. Mr. Rentz pointed out that Heather Gallagher is working to get out the volunteers.</p> <p>Ms. O’Gorman pointed out that there are still a lot of people who think Woods Charter School is a private school.</p>

VI. Closed Session

a. Personnel	The board went into closed session to discuss school personnel and their contracts, salaries and bonuses for the following school year. The school board returned after the closed session to vote on a motion.
Action Taken: Motion to authorize the principal to proceed with faculty contracts based upon preliminary budget discussion with a priority on salary increases was made by Ms. Perschy. Seconded by Ms. Leinbach. Motion unanimously.	
b. Contracts	No action.

Ms. Perschy moved to adjourn. Ms Leinbach seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.