

Highline Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2007
7808 Cherry Creek Drive South
6:15 pm

In attendance: Kim Easton, Ron Johnson, Peter Zina, Rodney Perry, Jon Lowry
Administrative Team and Staff: Alyssa Whitehead-Bust Gregg Gonzales, Monica Hensen.

Announcements:

The reception will be this Friday. The board will bring wine and/or appetizers.

Motions/Votes Taken:

A motion was made by Kim to put Barb on temporary leave of absence status, Jon seconded this motion. It was passed unanimously. This will allow us to have a quorum with fewer people. Kim will also send Barb a letter requesting an update from her as to her commitment to the HA Board at this time.

Attachments:

- HA Glossary
- HA 2006 Ballot
- Board Action Plan, Board Election Info
- Election Policy
- HA Board Nominating Process
- Declaration of Candidacy Form.

I. Minutes/Schedule/Events

No Minutes were reviewed.

No public comment.

II. Financial Updates.

Peter and Monica will work together to create an improved financial monitoring plan, creating a financial committee that meets prior to board meetings to review more detailed aspects of the budget and then creates a summary “scorecard” for the board meetings that highlights the key categories and issues that the full board should review. The board will still receive the detail behind the scorecard, but the summary will help focus the board on the key issues.

III. Administrative Updates.

Gregg presented our new discipline policy. The focus will be on positive discipline. Discipline is being defined as not something done to the kids, but something the faculty will help them acquire. The focus is on what we want students to do, behaviors instead of concepts. A system is being put in place to reinforce these behaviors. Consequences will not be given without extensive education prior to the offense and in conjunction with the consequences when they are given.

Kim asked the question, “How will our new policies affect the appearance of partiality in the discipline system?” This was an issue last year. Gregg responded by saying we will need to change the culture of our middle school and educate our community (parents and students). Three principles were articulated regarding equitability and discipline. 1. Consistent Expectations. 2. Consistent Accountability. 3. Differentiated Consequences.

Alyssa shared that we are fully hired. We have a full TA team. The theme of the year has been labeled the “Year of the Team.” The mood seems to be guardedly optimistic.

IV. Annual Plan/Goals.

No significant changes in the annual plan have been made. There may be some minor changes in the area of some benchmarks. Some faculty feel benchmarks are too low in a few areas, particularly with regard to differentiating benchmarks for students new to HA and students who have been in the community for over a year’s time.

V. Board Development Planning.

Kim and Lindsey’s board terms will be up this fall. Rodney suggested a board member speak at our Back to School Night to let people know we have a significant need for board members. John suggested 2 tactics: 1. Let people know they can run for a seat via election or request an appointed seat. 2. Do a community marketing effort to find community members with the skill sets we need.

John will take the draft board member appointment process and make adjustments that we discussed. For instance, once an individual has submitted their declaration of candidacy form and has met with the review committee, the committee will then either recommend the individual attend the next board meeting or will council them into other leadership opportunities. Peter will lead the election process this year. Ron will hustle the parking line the day of the election with candidate information and ballots.

We will all brainstorm people inside and outside the HA community for both elected and appointed seats. We will also brainstorm people who could fill seats for high interest and leadership for a high school development working committee.

VI. Glossary of HA Terms.

Discussion of the terms germane to our mission took place. We discussed the definition of equitable access at length. The suggestion was made that we add the phrase “all possible” before “resources” to communicate that we believe every student has the right to all the resources we can make available.

Differentiation was made between equitable access which refers to our provision of the *right* to resources needed for learning and equity which refers to the actual *provision* of those resources.

A change was made to the definition of excellence. The following is the new definition: Academic excellence refers to the preparation of students for college matriculation, persistence and success.

We will continue to add to the glossary as we go through the year and collaborate with the faculty as we go through the year. The desire would be that next fall we will include a glossary in the Student Handbook.

VII. Other Business and Adjournment.

Jon motioned to adjourn, Peter seconded that motion. MPU