

DRAFT MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Envision Schools
Envision Schools Support Office
185 Berry Street, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94107
Monday, March 5, 2007
5:00 – 8:00 pm

I. PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order

Bob Lenz called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present: Cory Gaines, William La Herran, Teresa Lai, Bob Lenz, Patrick Macias, Daniel McLaughlin, Debra Meyerson, Sanjay Poonen, Doug Tom, Amy Verneti, Joel Zarrow

Absent: Tom Kehler

Also Present: Shilpa Duvor, Andrew Davis, Jeri Howland, Jeannette LaFors, Bob Fyles, Chris Pelgrift, Stewart Fox, MSAT Parents, Jon Schwartz, Suzanne Motley, CAT students, Kenny Purser

II. CLOSED SESSION

Possible litigation (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)

The closed session was convened at 5:13 pm.

III. DISPOSITION OF CLOSED SESSION

The open session was reconvened at 6:45 pm.

There was nothing to report from closed session.

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

A. Consent Calendar

- i. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2007
- ii. Review of Envision Schools Check Register (from EdTec)
- iii. CAT LEA Plan
- iv. CAT School wide Plan

MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR

VOTE: TOM/ZARROW

Vote: 11 Ayes; 0 Nays

B. Novato Unified School District (NUSD) Prop 39 Offer

Bob acknowledged the presence of many Marin School of Arts & Technology (MSAT) parents. He then summarized the successes of MSAT to date including numerous college acceptances, a National Merit Finalist, and the WASC committee's exuberant approval of MSAT. Subsequently, he summarized the outreach efforts MSAT has undertaken to stay at the College of Marin (COM). Pat Macias outlined the history of the current facility struggle for MSAT.

Bob then presented three options for Envision Schools' response to NUSD's Prop 39 offer. Option 1 is to accept the offer. However, this option has severe budget implications and financial liabilities for Envision, and it is not a long-term solution. Option 2 is to reject the offer and to request portables for Novato and non-Novato students; Envision will pay \$1 per foot for non-Novato students. Option 3 is to return to the original proposal, partner with NUSD fully, and have NUSD commit to paying 50% of the rent for the Portal building.

At this time, parents from MSAT commented on the available options. Joel stated that the Board will do whatever it takes to keep MSAT open as that is our commitment.

Bob clarified the process of responding to NUSD's preliminary offer.

Daniel thanked all the MSAT parents for their hard work, dedication, and concern. Daniel stated that if Envision moves to the Portal site, MSAT will violate its conditional charter. Daniel stressed that while portables are not the optimal solution, this is the best option available for MSAT.

MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE not accepting the NUSD Prop 39 proposal as presented, but to request the following solution as a counter response:

- **In order to meet the District's Prop 39 obligation, request that the NUSD prepare and outline plans to house the Novato-based MSAT students at an NUSD provided facility (per Jan Derby's second stage offer if we did not accept the first);**
- **To avoid extreme financial risk (and related charter implications) for MSAT, to maintain the integrity of the school, and in the interest of Marin county high school education generally, to provide facilities for the non-Novato MSAT students on the same location, for which Envision Schools would pay NUSD for such facilities at the same rate implied in their Prop 39 formulation (\$1/student);**
- **This counter response will include a statement of facts and will be made publicly available.**

VOTE: McLaughlin/Verneti Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays

Bob noted that he will keep the MSAT community apprised of any further developments.

C. Approve Latin American Club Trip to Nicaragua

Suzanne Motley, Spanish Teacher from City Arts & Technology (CAT), and three students from CAT presented a summary of the Latin American Club Trip to Nicaragua. Suzanne stated that the purpose of the trip is to provide an experience for students where they can be enriched linguistically, culturally, and academically. Additionally, the students will also be performing community service by volunteering for a disabled school. The students also stated why they chose to participate in this trip. Jon Schwartz outlined the necessary precautions Envision is taking in order to make sure everyone has a safe trip.

MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE Latin American Club Trip to Nicaragua

VOTE: La Herran/Verneti Vote: 7 Ayes; 1 Nays

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

B. FOR INFORMATION, BOARD/STAFF DISCUSSION

1. Envision Schools Sexual Education Policy (Kenny Purser)

Kenny stated that many students are extremely sexually active and that teachers are very concerned about this. He presented the Sexual Education Policy and noted its main features – the classes will be gender based, there will be two teachers in any given class at all times, and there will be a condom distribution plan. Only students who take the course can ask for contraceptives, and no contraceptives will be given without a conversation with an adult. Parents do have an option to opt out. This policy has been approved by the Metro Leadership Council.

2. Budget Update (Chris Pelgrift)

Chris summarized the updated budget. He noted that the cash flow is stable and that the new Schwab Foundation grant of \$500,000 bridged the gap of \$600,000 left to raise for this year. He emphasized that

Envision has built a very strong relationship with Schwab and that there is a high possibility of this becoming an annual grant. A discussion ensued regarding earmarks and enrollment revenue gap.

3. Webster Street Building Financing Update (Chris Pelgrift)

Chris stated that Envision is in a financial contingency period and is moving towards an April 15th vote.

4. Staffing Update (Daniel McLaughlin)

Daniel thanked Chris Pelgrift, Bob Fyles, and Doug Tom for getting us this far. Daniel introduced Bob Fyles, Facilities Director, to the Board. He commended Bob for delivering at every level with a positive attitude.

Joel Zarrow introduced Orville Jackson III, Knowledge Manager.

5. Enrollment Update (Jon Schwartz)

Jon Schwartz presented the Enrollment Update and summarized actions taken to increase Envision Academy's enrollment. Pat Macias noted that MSAT parents are still actively recruiting new students.

6. Upcoming Charter Submissions (Daniel McLaughlin)

Daniel summarized the timeline for upcoming charter submissions:

Sept. 2007 – School #5, Impact Academy, is opening in Hayward

2008 – 09 – School #6 in Oakland, School #7 either in San Francisco or Foster City, and our first school in Fresno.

2009 – 10 – Finish the Bay area cluster in Oakland, San Francisco, or another undetermined school district and open two schools in Fresno.

7. Facilities Update (Bob Fyles)

Bob Fyles presented the update on Facilities to the Board.

8. Board Re-design Process (Bob Lenz)

Bob stated that Daniel and himself are working with Strayer Consulting, which is supported by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation. Bob noted that they in light of Envision's expansion, they are working with Strayer Consulting to rethink their changing leadership role, and how the Board works as well. He noted that Daniel and himself will begin drafting proposals and plan to get feedback from the Board in May.

At this time, Doug Tom announced that this is his last Board meeting. In light of the Webster Street building purchase, Doug has decided to help Envision by designing its first school. Daniel thanked Doug for his leadership, vision, and service on the Envision Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MOVE TO ADJOURN

VOTE: La Harren/McLaughlin

Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.