

**DRAFT MINUTES of
Wednesday, August 29, 2007
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Envision Schools
Envision Schools Support Office
185 Berry Street, Suite 220
San Francisco, CA 94107
5:00 – 8:00 pm**

I. PRELIMINARY

A. Call to Order

Daniel McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present: Daniel McLaughlin, Bob Lenz, Will La Herran, Patrick Macias, Tom Kehler, Amy Verneti, Joel Zarrow, Cory Gaines

Absent: Sanjay Poonen, Debra Meyerson

ES staff present: Bill McMurray, Naomi Kellar, Adam Farren, Jon Schwartz, Bob Fyles

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DM highlights ES and CAT student on front of Gates Foundation website

III. CLOSED SESSION

The closed session convened at 5:15 PM

IV. DISPOSITION OF CLOSED SESSION

The open session was reconvened at 5:52 PM

The Board discussed compensation for the Chief Education Officer and Chief Executive Officer. Kehler moved, Gaines seconded, Board unanimously approved compensation package.

V. FOR INFORMATION, BOARD/STAFF DISCUSSION

1. Enrollment Update: discussion of huge improvements, esp. in Oakland
DM: gives thanks to Judy De Frietas and Jon Schwartz. Reports it is the first year actual enrollment has been above budgeted enrollment.
2. Facilities Update: BF: Metro is on a one-year lease, and E. added improvements to the existing building. ES has a conditional use permit for CAT and has passed two of four building inspections as we work on building modular classrooms there. Envision Academy is an impressive facility, using an original building from 1913-14 (WL and CG agree), but construction is three weeks behind because of permit issues. Impact Academy finished a month before school started and it is a jewel in our portfolio. BL says this is the first time a school facility was ready to go in July, with a complete IT system, and this is a great relief to teachers. BF concludes with a video of construction of modular classrooms at CAT.
3. Star Test Data Update: BL: Good news is that for the third year in a row, one of our schools has dramatic growth in API, as Metro went up 93 points from 580 to 673. CAT

dropped 30 points and the school leadership will take a look at the causes. EA is in the 500s in API, which is to be expected at a first year school with a challenging population. All of the Envision schools continue to struggle, as is common in USA, with test scores in math.

BL continues - the focus at Envision Schools continues to be on college preparation rather than on California state test results. This can be measured by whether E.S. students need to have remedial classes in math in first year of college, and by consultations with experts in math. The board will have a workshop on how to interpret California state test results. JZ asks: First, what are the implications of these results on our state/federal funding? Second, if we are not looking at test scores as benchmark for student learning, how are we measuring this and what does learning look like?

4. CAT RISE survey results: DM: RISE is an organization that supplies teachers to areas with underserved kids. CAT participated in this survey, and compared to other RISE schools in three other urban locations CAT's scores beat the average on every criterion and averaged 17 more hours of work a week as indicated by student response.
5. Since Costanoa: DM: Power Point slideshow. There was a retreat the ES support staff in April. The discussion centered on the observation that the current ES approach is challenging, with few economies of scale. Why? Soft costs: facilities and charter negotiations, maintaining district relationships, need for multiple start-up plans because of the volatility of charter and facility negotiations and a decreased ability to make decisions and raise funds with a big-picture perspective. Hard costs include lost revenues from under-enrollment in the first few years of a school's existence, and the need to acquire commercial facilities. The Board focused on the conditions appropriate for growth: multiple charters upfront by school district, facilities secured, students opt in, complete staffing and hiring and firing autonomy, collaborative district, upfront capital raise.
6. Denver Update: The Piton Foundation has been setting up the meetings with important members of the Denver community. Conversations with DPS and potential funders have been productive and encouraging.
7. Fresno Update: Fresno has many pros and some cons for expansion. Pros: high student need, potential low facilities costs, sufficient number of students for multiple schools, high demand, limited competition. Cons: school board unknown re likely stance toward ES, limited local funding base.
8. Board expectations and redesign: The Board should be dealing with strategic issues all the time. TK thinks there is currently the best strategic direction since he has been on the Board, and an increasingly solid approach. At the next board meeting there will be formal board redesign proposals, mirroring the Aspire structure with three major committees.

VI. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

1. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of Minutes of June 12 and June 21, 2007
- B. Review of Envision Schools Check Register (from EdTec)
- C. Approval of LEA Plan
- D. Approval of Petty Cash Policy
- E. Approval of Employee Handbook

MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR

VOTE: Verneti/Kehler Vote: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MOVE TO ADJOURN

VOTE: Macias/McLaughlin Vote: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.