

Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Envision Schools
 436 14th Street Suite 920
 Oakland, CA 94612
 September 8, 2011

I. PRELIMINARY

1. Call to Order
 - Natalie Walrond called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.
2. Roll Call
 - Natalie Walrond, Jim Wiggett, Helen Bulwik, Lawrie Mott, David Cooper, Larry Rosenberger, Greg Daily, Bob Lenz, Todd Aldrich, Sherri Pittman, and Amy Verneti
3. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2011 Board Meeting
 - Motion: Jim
 - Second: Helen
 - 11 Yes 0 No

II. REPORTS

1. Board Chair Report
 - Natalie welcomed the board members to the meeting and began the meeting by highlighting the new board packet appendix, which now includes board goals, board agendas for the year, and the work plan, among other documents.
2. Superintendent Report
 - Gia Truong, the new Envision Schools superintendent, gave an overview of how the school year is unfolding at each school. She stated that the energy at Impact Academy is great, and that the students and staff are celebrating their API gains; Metro students are enjoying their new campus and the charter renewal process is moving ahead well; the Envision Academy campus has high-energy community spirit thanks in part to the new principal, Kirsten Grimm; students at City Arts & Tech are engaged in their classes and the school year is off to a great start.
 - Gia also gave the board a data sheet, which outlined teacher survey results from the previous school year. The board discussed the results of the survey. Greg asked for more clarification about how school culture affects overall morale. Gia outlined the differences at each school, and how it affects the needs of each individual school.
 - Helen asked Gia for her opinion about the largest need at every school. Gia stated that a larger budget for the organization would be useful. Helen

then stated that some donors want to know specific needs (programs, infrastructure, etc.) to fund. Lawrie stated that we need to first raise the approved budget before adding in extra programs or infrastructure improvement. Todd asked if the needed funds are for teacher salary or infrastructure, and Gia stated that funding to improve classrooms and schools was most requested. Gia closed by thanking everyone for his or her input.

3. Finance Committee Report

- Judy opened the finance committee report by giving an update on the yearly audit process. She stated that the audit went very well, as expected.
- She then gave an update about the Envision Schools' CSC account and stated that we are tracking well.
- Judy also updated the board about the Envision Academy facilities program SB 740, and explained that there is a reporting error that is preventing ES from receiving the grant. She said that she and Gia are optimistic that the situation will be resolved soon.

4. Development Committee Report

- Lawrie opened the report by stating that the development committee are back to having regular meetings, and are excited for the new year. Soon the board will be asked to make pledges, and she would love to see everyone make a giving stretch this year.
- Jane Breyer gave the board an update about the upcoming Metro Open House event scheduled for 10/13. All board members were asked to attend and invite friends and colleagues to the event. She then told the board about how Helen Bulwik helped to secure a donation of 250 personalized water bottles through a connection at Cafe Press.
- Lawrie closed the report by telling all board members to be on the lookout for a pledge request form.

5. Chair Reports

- Gia gave an end-of-year update presentation for Envision Schools, which included graduation data, college-going statistics, classroom subject data, school statistics, and Common Core State Standards information.
- Lawrie asked why some of our students were not staying with a Envision Schools for all 4 years of high school, and asked how we are working to retain students. Gia replied that many students would likely stay with Envision Schools if there were no location changes (e.g., Metro) and teacher retention were higher.
- Helen asked for more clarification as to why Impact Academy's API gains were so high. Gia stated that there are many reasons for the gains, including: high instruction quality, use of data, relevant curriculum, and family involvement.
- The board then discussed the algebra data, and Helen asked why algebra data are lower than other subjects. Gia stated that this is traditionally a difficult area for students, but that we are making positive changes in

curriculum to align to California standards, which should improve our algebra proficiency. The board then discussed the new standards (Common Core State Standards). Erika stated that Envision Schools' curriculum and assessments are mostly aligned to the new standards, and should be fully aligned by the end of the school year.

- Gia closed the report by stating that all of our schools are off to great start in the new school year.

III. CLOSED SESSION

- Nothing to report.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM.