

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

## I. PRELIMINARY

## **A. Call to Order**

Bob Lenz called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

## **B. Roll Call**

Present: Cory Gaines, Tom Kehler, William La Herran, Bob Lenz, Amy Vernetta, Joel Zarrow, Teresa Lai (5:30), Patrick Macias (6:30)

Absent: Daniel McLaughlin, Debra Meyerson, Sanjay Poonen, Doug Tom

Also Present: J.R. Atwood, Andrew Davis, Jeri Howland, Jon Schwartz, Jeannette LaFors

## **II. CLOSED SESSION**

Possible litigation (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)

The closed session was convened at 5:20 pm.

### **III. DISPOSITION OF CLOSED SESSION**

The open session was reconvened at 6:20 pm.

The Board did not report on any items discussed during closed session.

#### **IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION**

#### **A. Consent Calendar**

1. Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2006
  2. Review of Envision Schools Check Register (from EdTec)
  3. Approval of Envision Academy Revolving Loan Application

## **MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**VOTE: VERNETTI/KEHLER**      Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays

## **B. Urban Renaissance Name Changed to Envision Academy**

Bob Lenz explained that Urban School of San Francisco has a trademark on the name “Urban” within the education community of the Bay Area. Envision Schools decided, instead of fighting the legal challenges regarding the name, to allow students of Urban Renaissance to rename the school. The students decided on the name Envision Academy of Arts & Technology. Board needs to approve the name change so that the State Board of Education can approve it.

**MOTION: MOVE TO APPROVE URBAN RENAISSANCE NAME CHANGE TO ENVISION ACADEMY**

**VOTE: LA HERRAN/VERNETTI**      **Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays**

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

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## A. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bob Lenz explained “version 1.1” of the graduation portfolio; Envision Schools is developing benchmarks for the lower-division project-based assessment. A discussion ensued regarding Envision Schools’ partnership with the Stanford Redesign Network.

Bob reported that Envision has submitted a proposal to the NewSchools Venture Fund, Schwab, and Oracle, and that the Stuart Foundation has invited Envision to submit a proposal for a \$25K grant for evaluation. Bob also reported that Jeri, John Oubre, and himself are making a presentation to the Witter Foundation tomorrow. Bob announced that Envision is on-track to meet its fundraising benchmarks.

Jeri said she is working to develop an individual donor pool of prospective fundraisers and volunteers; the first meet-and-greet luncheon will be in early February.

Joel Zarrow announced that 100% of the ES Board has financially contributed to ES and at a much higher amount of giving than ever before.

Bob announced that Envision is working with City College in San Francisco to allow CAT students to enroll in college courses.

Bob shared the dates of upcoming exhibitions: MSAT upper-division exhibition on Dante's *Inferno* February 6-8; CAT lower-division exhibition on media literacy on February 15. Both MSAT and Metro have had successful exhibitions over the past two weeks.

## B. FOR INFORMATION, BOARD/STAFF DISCUSSION

### 1. Hiring Update

Jon Schwartz announced five new hires for Envision:

- Director of Facilities: Bob Fyles. Former Director of Construction for SCORE!; oversaw all construction efforts as SCORE expanded from 20 to 100+ sites.
- Director of Finance: Rich Billings. Worked as an intern at ES last summer; currently a 2<sup>nd</sup> year MBA student at Kellogg; former teacher and All-American soccer player. Has accepted an offer that will start in July.
- Knowledge Manager: Orville Jackson III. First-generation college graduate; Harvard PhD; Gulf War veteran; background is in neuropsychology. Jeannette thanked Joel for his work in helping Envision connect with Orville.
- Kari will be leaving Envision at the end of the year to start business school at Yale.
- Enrollment Consultant: Judy Defreitas. Former State Director of Maine for Gore/Lieberman campaign; looking to bring her grassroots network building experience to Envision. Contract runs through 2<sup>nd</sup> semester with potential to bring on full-time.
- Intern/Special Assistant to the CEO: J.R. Atwood. Former Director of Student Life for College Track; interest in starting his own charter school. Six-month internship.
- Next big hire is to be a VP for Human Resources. Jon said our interim VP of HR is wonderful, but is unable to stay-on full-time.
- Jeanette announced major teacher recruitment effort: 30-40 new teachers for next year.

### 2. Enrollment Update

Jon Schwartz reported that Envision has studied the outreach efforts of other schools and established a key enrollment benchmark: to enroll 125 students, Envision needs 300 applicants. He then presented updated enrollment figures for each school:

- **CAT:** Currently has 168 applicants; 350 projected. Ahead of schedule for full-enrollment. Principal of CAT has visited every middle school in the area.
- **Metro:** Currently has 132 applicants; 270 projected. Ahead of schedule from last year and picking up traction.
- **Impact:** Currently has 100+ applicants from a very diverse student body—65% FGCB. The other charter school in Hayward, Leadership Academy, only has ~50 applicants. Jon expressed confidence that Impact will meet 300-applicant benchmark.

- **MSAT:** Benchmark is 80-90/class. Currently have 60 applications; last year at this time MSAT had 90. Jon discussed possible factors that could have resulted in the slow turn-in of applications. An effort will be made to reinvigorate the current, and recruit new, active parent volunteers.
- **EA:** Jon announced that EA has struggled with recruiting applicants and outlined possible solutions. Jon announced that Judy Defreitas will be working exclusively on increasing enrollment at EA and that J.R. will also help. A discussion ensued regarding why EA has so few applications and the quality of education there.

### **3. Benchmarking and Strategic Planning**

Bob Lenz presented:

“Our Steps Forward”

- Staff retreats and benchmarking meetings with the leadership team helped Envision clarify roles, responsibilities, establish benchmarks, and identify key gaps.
- Envision visited with Green Dot Schools who went from 5-10 schools last year. This inspired confidence that Envision is poised well to successfully scale. A discussion transpired regarding how Green Dot expanded.
- Envision met with Aspire who emphasized the importance of economies of scale.

“Steps to Come”

- Dick Strayer, organizational leadership coach, will be contacting the Envision Board to solicit feedback about founders and management. Their initial feedback was that Envision’s structure and management works great with four schools, but to open and operate 16 schools will require a redesign.
- More site visits: Daniel is heading to Yale to give a presentation and to visit with other CMOs.
- There will be spring and summer retreats to finalize plans for the 07/08 school year.

Bob summarized Envision’s performance and foundation goals.

### **4. Envision Academy Building Purchase Update**

Bob summarized the purchase agreement for the EA building and outlined possible obstacles to its purchase. Discussion ensued about good and bad ideas of going forward with purchase.

### **5. Form 700**

Bob mentioned that this form is required of all people who serve on boards to disclose potential conflicts of interest and financial dealings. The Envision Schools Board needs to complete as soon as possible in order to be in compliance. Bob mentioned that Shilpa will send an email explaining the details of how to fill-out the form.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**      **MOVE TO ADJOURN**

**VOTE:**        **KEHLER/VERNETTI**

**Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.