

The Ivy School  
4212 NE Prescott St  
Board of Directors—Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2014

Board Members Present: Billy Ladd, Johanna Keith, Amie Robar Chally, Alby Salsa, Karilyn Wax

Administration Present: Karie Breyne, Rebecca Keith, Anne O’Neal, Amy Stuhr

Others Present: Leah Cutler, Felicity Powers, Stephen Bachara

6:05pm: Meeting called to order.

6:05pm: Johanna Keith moves to accept September, 2014 board meeting minutes. Karilyn Wax seconds, all members in favor, motion carries, minutes accepted.

6:07pm: Treasurer’s Report: Karie Breyne reviewed the budget to-date. After-care is on-track to bring in double the amount projected in the budget. Ivy has been approved to receive federal reimbursement for students participating in the free and reduced lunch program. 28.2% of Ivy’s students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Staffing is over budget by \$47,000 due to new hires falling higher on the salary scale as well as the loss of the Arts Tax to pay our music teacher’s salary. Karie will continue to check on the status of the Arts Tax. Karie suggested a couple of ideas to cover the increased staff expense: offer camps over breaks and offer childcare during conference days. Karie will provide a revised budget at the next board meeting. We have about \$55,000 in our capital campaign account, sufficient to make our balloon payment to People’s Ministries. Karie will wait until December to make the balloon payment (we will also have a revised budget by then).

6:25pm: Admin Report given by Anne O’Neal, Amy Stuhr and Rebecca Keith.

Anne O’Neal (Prescott): The specials schedule is being adjusted so that the morning work cycle is not interrupted. There is a need for more consistent Spanish instruction across the classrooms. Anne is working on staffing and schedules so the instruction is comparable for all classes. The assistant position in LE1 is filled. There is a lot of special ed happening at Prescott. The team and teachers have been working very hard and have been in contact with ODE and the Sped person working with PPS to determine what they are required to provide us. The hope is that PPS will see Ivy’s caseload and assign more services to us.

Amy Stuhr (Morris): Amy felt like the parent nights held in October were helpful and would like to hold more events like them, providing parents with more forums. The

administration will be planning the next event. Amy sees the need for more proactive communication and parent education events. Amy also spoke about using intentional circles at these forums/events, a guideline for communicating that encourages all voices to be heard.

Amy is supporting the middle school programmatically. They are using a specialist model in the middle school classrooms this year. Classrooms are being broken down into smaller working groups. In terms of curriculum, math and reading are the focus again. Amy is looking at getting a writing program. Amy stated that technology is the biggest struggle. Billy Ladd is working on getting loaner laptops for standardized testing.

Space is an issue at Morris. Karie is negotiating fees for use of the community room with the church. We need space for Tuesday and Friday music, enrichment, pullouts and Friday Forums. Karilyn Wax has open commercial space near the Morris campus that she has offered for use. Karilyn and Amy will explore that further.

Rebecca Keith: Rebecca has been observing and making assessments of the classrooms and will discuss her observations and recommendations with the administrative team before she brings them to the board. Rebecca's focus will be on guiding Ivy in our fulfillment of the Montessori principles. Rebecca also wants to make sure that the classrooms are equally stocked and have parallel materials. She will be looking at what should be there and determine what needs to be purchased or made. Rebecca would like to see the upper el and middle school classes be reorganized to follow the Montessori model of a 4-6 grade classroom and a 7-8 classroom.

The charter renewal is being handled by Mary Zigman with Kim Carlson assisting.

7:05pm: Outreach Committee Update given by Alby Salsa and Billy Ladd. The first outreach event was held last Saturday. Alby staffed the event and he felt it went really well. Alby handed out a lot of flyers and talked with families about Montessori as an alternative to the traditional public school model. The next outreach event will be staffed by Rebecca Keith.

7:15pm: Discussed un-deposited checks. Karie Breyne has collected checks from the Prescott campus that were not deposited and is following up with families. Karie described the current process of using a log book to track payments, which all administrative staff is using.

7:23pm: Karilyn Wax reported that we are still looking for a board treasurer. She has received resumes for board positions and will schedule interviews. Lisa Larpenteur was recommended as a candidate for the treasurer position.

7:28pm Comments from Observers: Felicity Powers stated the importance of teachers coming to board meetings so they understand where decisions are coming from. Felicity feels that it is important for job satisfaction that teachers feel they have a voice in their job and want to know what their job will look like down the line. Felicity expressed interest in becoming Montessori trained and said that a scholarship would help her.

Leah Cutler is concerned about the class sizes and suggested the board consider budgeting for smaller class sizes. Leah also asked about the school's technology plan and budget.

Stephen Bachara appreciated the openness and candor from the board. He encouraged the administration to continue to work on their communication to parents. Stephen expressed interest in helping with the website and technology. Stephen has been put in contact with our IT person. Stephen also expressed interest in helping with outreach.

8:00pm: Executive Session: Discussed Director's personal leave.

9:20pm: Meeting adjourned