

Charter School of Morgan Hill



Board of Director Minutes

March 11, 2003

Closed session began at 6:00 PM

Open sessions began at 7: 35 PM

Board Members Present: John Varela, Cinda Meister, Sharon Sousa, Paige Cisewski, Lynn Mitoma, Marcy Tomsheck, and Claudette Beaty

Also in attendance: Joy Moody (staff rep alternate), Noreen Bergin, Elaine Feeny, Mary Smathers, Debbie Hargadon, and Noreen Bergin

Absent: Myles Taketa

Guest presenters: Robertta H. Barba, Chair of Instructional Technology from San Jose State University;
Curtis Penbroke, staff in Instructional Technology from SJS.

CSMH Math Committee: Melinda Price, Lori Mains, Susanne Burcat, and Chris Horning.

Guest: Shelle Thomas, MHUSD School Board Member

Public: Dana Miller

Regarding Closed session:

No action taken by the Board on the first item, which was 'Review of negotiations with the school district on facilities.'

Action of 4 – 0 vote regarding teachers letters of intent for school year 2003-2004. 1 abstained.

Review of leadership evaluations process – will return to closed session after this meeting is over.

Minutes of Feb. 11, 2003 Board Meeting approved with amendments regarding flyer distribution policy for the school and dates regarding the City of Morgan Hill's 22K loan to the CSMH.

Action Item:

Guest Presentation: From San Jose State University: Robertta H. Barba, Chair and

Curtis Penbroke, staff from the Instructional Technology Dept.

Ms. Barba is requesting the use of our school facility on Wednesday evenings for a 2-year period beginning August of 2003. The program is a Master's Level program for teachers, where they work with a cohort of teachers, usually 25 – 35 people at a time. They are looking for a facility suitable for adult learning. The trade for space is they would leave a mobile cart containing 16 new ibooks and a training instructional station here for school use and their use for the teaching/training. They ask that all equipment be charged for use by Wednesday evenings. At the end of the 2 years, the equipment becomes the property of the Charter School.

They have not had problems at any sites in the past, which are Foothill College, Gunderson High School, and Andrew Hill High School. They would like to begin advertising in the community so they can hold an informational meeting the last weekend in April. They do not generally do formal MOU's.

Mitoma motioned to allow San Jose State the use of our school as a Professional Development Site. Tomscheck 2nd. Approved 6 – 0.

Discussion items:

Facilities for Charter School within the School District

Shelle Thomas, Board member, presented MHUSD's Board of Directors view of CSMH for next fall. They understand our deadline, but the remaining questions are how much money do they have and how the budget cuts will affect the School District. She stressed that we come forward with a strong time line as to what we require when.

Regarding 500K in modernization funds – she reported those funds are committed to the school property of Encinal if the matching funds can be found. It is an 80/20 program where the school receives 80% of 500K if they match 20% of the funds. The school district has the right to divert 20% of the 500K to another eligible school, if they chose (such as Las Paseos.)

There is still not an official decision as what to do with the current 5th and 6th grade students at Encinal, so Ms. Thomas indicated that even though it is bad economic times, having a deadline is “maybe” a good thing.

Math Committee Presentation: (see attached package)

Recommendation from the committee was unanimous for Harcourt for K – 6. They felt it had the components of a strong math curriculum, supports project-based learning, and is state adopted. The cost to the school this year would be 11, 066 plus tax, as the time line was to have these materials available for teachers by May so they could have them over the summer. Manipulatives are not included in the cost presented.

Trailblazers (Investigations) or Mathscapes were the PBL choices. The committee report states: “While Trailblazers is project driven, we did not feel there were enough direct instruction, practice and/or support for different learner abilities. Learning thru discovery and application can be stimulating for some, yet quite confusing for others.” Ideally they would have Harcourt plus a PBL series to work from. Neither of these PBL series are state adopted, which was not a criteria; however, the fear is that at some point the state will demand that all schools use state adopted materials, which would mean the purchase of another curriculum at a later date.

The middle school choice is Mathsapes. Not state adopted, but on the recommended list for 8th grade. Cost to the school this year would be \$4,375 for 7 & 8th only and \$8,553 if purchase were made for 6 – 8th.

Dana Miller responded as part of the public – that the choice to follow the school’s mission should only be Project Based Learning. If the lower end math students could not follow with PBL only, then CSMH, being a school of choice, might not be the place for them.

Approval to purchase math curriculum will be on April agenda.

Public Comment and Comments/Questions from Board Member on Board Packet

Myles Taketa has submitted a letter of resignation to the Board, resigning his Board position effective February 26, 2003 due being elected President of the Go Kids Board of Directors as well as other commitments. The Board accepted his resignation and thanked him for his years of service and his committed support of the Charter School. Smathers recommended that we continue without filling this position as it is up for election in May 2003.

Smathers is working with South Valley National Bank to renew our line of credit. This must be done yearly. It will be on the agenda in May for approval.

Smathers reported that today we finally received the \$22,000 load from MH RDA funds. She also paid another \$40,000 to the line of credit, so balance is now \$100,000.

Other Discussion Items

Report on fall school survey results: No impressed with the number of parents (31%) who returned fall surveys. We need to work harder at the timing of sending them out (not in December) and give some incentives for getting them returned.

Report on budget work session: Minutes from the March 8th retreat are available. Board must pick a time when they can discuss the creation of a time line, but it may be wise to wait until we know more about the site negotiations with MHUSD. We need an approved budget by May 2003. Fiscal year will be the same as last year, which indicates July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Board agreed to April 15 at 6PM for an additional budget planning meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM. Board returned to closed session.

Next meeting is April 8, 2003 at the Charter School Staff Room.

Additional Budget meeting: April 15 at 6:00 PM in the Charter School Staff Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hargadon
Administrative Assistant.

for Sharon Sousa
Board of Director’s Secretary