

Syracuse Arts Academy Work Session Minutes November 6, 2008

Place: Syracuse Arts Academy, 2893 W. 1700 S., Syracuse



Board Members in Attendance: Chris Dallin, David Hall, Charlene Nelson, Cameron Almond and Andrea Larkin

Others: Jan Whimpey (Principal), Shirley Bouwhuis (Special Board Guest), John Buck (Buck Financial), Brian Colon (Wachovia Securities), Gavin Hutchinson (Academica), Dawn Kawaguchi (Academica), and Jed Stevenson (Academica)

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

2008-2009 Board SWOT Goals

“If Disney ran your school?”

Understanding of the school’s purpose and function

Relationship between staff & POEC

Integrated Arts

Minutes

5:10 PM - Call to Order - Chris Dallin

Business Items (To Be Discussed and/or Voted On During Board Meeting)

Chris explained that before the meeting the Board had a walk thru with Julie (Nielson, 6th Grade Teacher) to show how she integrated art in her classroom.

- **Update on Jr. High** - Since Jed has another meeting to attend, Chris has moved up Jed’s agenda items to the top of the agenda. Jed publically thanked Jan (and parents) for the working with Academica/One West with the construction of the Jr. High. Jed has reported that the construction is well ahead of schedule. Jed requested the Board put together a committee to help make decisions on the building process. This committee has already been put into place. It includes Dave (chair), Andrea, Jan, and Charlene plus maybe one teacher. Jan adds that the plan is to bring in “mock ups” and the committee will say “looks good - go ahead.” Chris would like Dave to be the person who Academica contacts. Sheldon contacted Dave regarding the flooring decisions. He presented the options to the rest of the committee the following:
 - Hall Flooring - Options are VCT Flooring, Stained concrete, or carpet.
 - Gym Flooring - VCT Flooring that looks like hardwood.The committee collaboratively agreed on the VCT Flooring for both.

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- D/A ➤ **Discuss the Building Purchase, Financing, and the Proposed Resolution** - Jed explained the conflict of interest in this purchase since he and Sheldon both have some ownership in the building. Jed read his letter to the Board that states he cannot advise or comment on the purchase of the building. *Jed excused himself at this time 5:21 p.m.*
- Dave took over the discussion at this time. Dave informed the Board that John Buck's role is to help the Board get a bond issued that will allow the Board to purchase the building. He has thoroughly researched the proposed resolution. He reviewed the handout of information that he received today put together by John Buck. The Board is a low risk loan. A \$25,000 application fee is the only costs that the Board will be responsible for which is earnest money. The loan will be over a 30 year period. A small portion of the debt will be paid at 10% (during the first 5 years) and then the interest rate will drop down to 7.75%. By year six, you will see a savings of approximately \$50,000 per year if the school's income stays the same. The overall savings will be almost \$1.4 million. Dave recommends to the Board that they proceed based on the information that he reviewed and adopt the resolution which is included in the packet. Brian Colon and John Buck answered questions that the Board had and to also make clarifications on any questions.
- John Buck and Brian Colon excused themselves at this time 5:37 p.m.*

Follow Up from October Work Session:

- Chris explained the change to the Work Session Agenda. He reviewed the four areas that the Board is going to work on this school year. Dave and Chris complimented Jan on the amazing job in bringing in a great staff and integrating the art into the classroom.
- I ➤ **Progress on Mission Statement - Integrating Art into Curriculum**
- *Dashboard* - Jan has started with 40 surveys but dashboard it not complete but it's a good start. They will continue to send out surveys.
 - *Walk thru with a teacher* - This was done prior to the Work Session with Julie Neilson.
- D ➤ **Goals and Metrics for 2008/2009** - Chris reviewed the four criteria's on the agenda that Board will be working on throughout the year.
- *"If Disney ran your school?"* - Based upon these four criteria's, Jan has come up with a recommendation for the Board to measure this with monthly surveys being sent out to parents on how they think the staff and teachers are doing.
 - *Integrated Arts* - Visually the Board can see how the teachers are integrating art into their classrooms. Chris would like to have a teacher walk through at monthly Board Meetings. He would also like a monthly report from each teacher on how many times they integrated art into their class. He would like in a graph to see the progress from month to month. Trends are not important. It will create a baseline by which the Board can read and then decide which direction the Board wants Jan to go.
 - *Relationship between the Staff & POEC* - Cameron suggested that the POEC could put out a quarterly survey to the teachers to find out how they are feeling with the parent involvement. David suggested that Cameron get with some teachers to find out what areas are important to them.
 - *Understanding the schools purpose and function* - This is a marketing goal. We are not Julliard. The Board would like to make sure that the parents to understand the school's purpose and function. David recommended this could be done in the surveys as well. He suggested that a survey question to the parents could be "Is the school meeting your expectations in terms of integrated arts?" If they answer no then there's a follow up question of, "How can we improve?" Jan commented that it is also important to her how well are the children are performing academically, in their behavior, and are they experiencing the arts. Andrea suggested that the school's mission statement should be

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put up in the front area of the school so the parents can see it and know what it is. Jan reported that they are already headed in that direction.

D ➤ Clarification on Jan's Performance Goals - The following items below are what the Board will be holding Jan accountable for throughout the year.

1. *"If Disney ran your school"*

✓ Sending out the parent surveys & tracking the results.

2. *Understanding the schools purpose and function*

✓ Two parent survey questions regarding integrated arts (see above comments from David).

✓ Weekly notes

✓ Chris would like to see a new Activity in the school - That is whenever there's parents involved in an activity whether it's a POEC activity or assembly, etc. that there is "storytelling" involved where one of the teachers is getting up and saying here's how I integrate art into the classroom and show them how it's done or a student sings a song (i.e. 12 cranial nerves in brain song).

3. *Relationship between the staff & POEC*

✓ "The Cameron Survey" - Quarterly survey that POEC will have for teachers. Jan will not be held accountable for the parents actions.

4. *Integrated Arts*

✓ This is the metric from the teachers how many times they are integrating art into the classroom through a monthly dashboard. The goal for Jan is to report what the teachers are doing - Dave suggested to identify the five areas that we are measured by the state.

Chris would also like to see Jan measure up to the expectation that meet or exceed state scores.

November Business Items:

D/A ➤ Review Budget for CUSAP - Jan quickly reviewed the CUSAP budget which is title money that is federally funded and how she is planning to spend the money.

At this time, Chris asked that the rest of the agenda items be moved to December's Work Session since there were some Board members that needed to leave at 6:15 p.m.

ADJOURN- Due to the Board losing it's quorum, Chris went right into the Board Meeting at 6:10 p.m. (*Duration 51:40*)