ISL Education Committee meeting 10_9_07

In attendance: Marc, Sean, Melanie
Meeting called to order: 1:10 PM

<u>High School</u>

Sean's report on conversations with other schools about possible partnerships:

- Other schools prefer to talk after end of first quarter in Nov., and want to know why we're approaching them now about opening a school so far in the future
- Other schools want to know what we're willing to give. Answer will be some portion of the MFP (perhaps as high as 85%) + picking up their language classes; in exchange our students would use their facility and attend their science, math, etc. classes
- Other schools are concerned re whether our kids will meet their entrance requirements. What do we do with the ones who will not?

Melanie's report on BESE research.

- We can run an independent school within another school's building ("shared facility" model) without changing our charter. In this case we'd share facility, give them most of our MFP, pick up their language classes, and send our kids to their science/math classes.
- Main alternative ("partnership model") would almost certainly require revisions to the charter. In this case, we would create a new school taking in students from ISL and partner school; full sharing of management, etc. Melanie's sense from her conversation with BESE is that this model should be avoided because opening up the charter to revisions is too risky.

Discussion:

- Shared facility is not problematic per se; there are already precedents for this in Orleans Parish at this time, and it would not present a problem for BESE.
- What we would be doing different is combining a shared facility with a NOCCA academic model: non-ISL kids would be eligible to take ISL classes (just as kids come from schools throughout the city to take NOCCA classes today); and ISL kids would be eligible to take classes at our partner institution.
- The alternative ("partnership model") is basically how Audubon French/Montessori operate. Two different tracks sharing common management. This is approximately what we have been talking about in the past, but conversation with BESE makes this seem like unattractive option.

Overall next steps:

1) Melanie will get information on exactly how NOCCA academic exchanges are governed
2) Sean will schedule talks with other schools (including Lusher, Audubon, Franklin, UNO College Prep, Hynes, NOLA 180) during month of November. (Sean is already planning to have coffee with Ben Clavin from NOLA College Prep and John Alfreds from NOLA 180; both have high schools and are potential partners. Sean also spoke with Novelt Estrella (sp?; affiliation?).)
    a) Schools with HS facilities (Lusher, Franklin UNO CP, NOLA 180) are viable for shared facility model; Schools without HS facilities are not, but we should still be in touch

b) These conversations should also include discussion re putting ISL kids at front of the line for taking their entrance exams, even though no sure option exists for kids who don't pass these exams.

3) Marc will set up a meeting with Darlene Brown to talk about partnering with UNO's high school
4) We need to have 2-3 concrete scenarios for discussion at next board meeting.
   - Sean and Melanie will send draft to Marc by Friday at noon for circulation to rest of Board by Friday PM.

   a) Scenarios should include:
      i) "Shared Facilities" model
         (1) Simple shared facilities model
         (2) Shared facilities with NOCCA-style academic arrangement
      ii) "Partnership" model
      iii) "Free-standing ISL high school"
   b) For each scenario, committee should generate a one-page bulleted list of concrete questions and answers about how it could be brought about, including financial issues, academic governance/curriculum, next steps, decision rules, etc.

School Improvement Plan

Melanie and Laura are going to a school improvement plan writing session on 11/3 (they will miss ISL Fest). Expect to generate entire SIP on that day.

- Melanie will report on SIP to education committee at next meeting

School Admissions Procedures

Admissions procedures are due to be reported on at next board meeting. Timeline and application will be distributed at this weekend's open house. As of now admissions procedure scheduled to be essentially the same as last year.

- Sean and Melanie will send Marc a copy of the admissions procedures on Friday for circulation to board.

Attrition report

Report was scheduled for October meeting; will be reported in November instead.

- Marc requests that we have a copy of this in time for November 14th ed committee meeting

Meeting adjourned 2:05 PM