October 17, 2007
ISL Board Meeting
ISL Cafeteria

Meeting called to order 7:06 PM
Members present:

Scott Aiges; Grant Ligon; Rico Sterling; Sean Wilson; Karen Dwyer; Marc Rosenblum; Carolyn Chandler; Gina Warner; Dottie Nelson

Approval of September Minutes
Grant Ligon: Motion to approve
Scott: Amend the minutes to reflect that staff should not be *members* of committees; want to clarify that members of administration/staff attend as school employees, not as members of committee.
Karen: Motion to approve as amended; Grant second
Approved: unanimous vote

ISL Fest Report Lynn Reeves
- Fest bumper stickers distributed
- Almost all food has been donated; no cost-sharing with vendors; majority of beverages have been donated.
- Over 400 pre-ordered t-shirts
- ISL Fest cups
- 12 games; inflatables; dunking booth
- Request $1,200 donation for rock climbing wall and to hire off-duty police for night before the fest so that set up can be done the night before.
- Gina: motion to appropriate $1,200 from a miscellaneous account to support these efforts; seconded by Karen.
- FTCO fronts $7,000 for start up; all proceeds from the event go to school's operating fund. Goal for the event is to raise $25,000.
- Vote: unanimous passage

Head of School Report

Academic report (Tennyson)
- 6 new children enrolled; total enrollment not 454; 5 of new students in French, which is harder to recruit
- Adding green issues to curriculum in light of Global Green grant
- DIBELS testing is complete; English remediation has been initiated in response to DIBELS scores
- New report card procedures: narrative report cards (as charter dictates
- Middle school parent Alex Aleya building cubbies and coat hooks for middle school students
- JK Rowling reading tomorrow

- Shelves being installed in library; projected completion of shelving in November; books on shelves by January

Institutional advancement (Stewart)

- Extensive media coverage of Gorbachev visit
- Working with John Majeski of Global Green to identify priority projects for energy efficiency
- We are finalist for a $300K grant from Entergy and NIKE. Decision was expected in August, but has been delayed. We will be visited by a consultant next month for inspection of suitability of roof for solar panels.
- 97 K applications at last weekend's open house; included better tracking mechanisms in applications so we can track success of our outreach efforts
- Recently visited by head of new Charter School division of DOE
- Annual fund starts off with $2500 matching grant from Entergy; Board donations to kick off at ISL Fest; goal is 100% parent participation (at any level).
- Have met with enrichment and student services faculty to target their programs for funding
- French immersion grant from CAFA
- LANO technical assistance grant for school operations : $10K cash grant ($5K already received) + technical assistance based on organizational assessment conducted last year. Offer of consultants for strategic plan, marketing, development, etc.
- Also recently awarded $15,000 grant from Baptist Community ministries to standardize curriculum across grade levels.

Facilities

- Estimate that would cost $2.5 – 3 million to get facility in perfect shape; we are targeting highest priorities
- Facilities team working on ongoing basis to document problems and identify priorities
- Expect to close on Jeff Davis this week (hopefully!)
- Ken Campbell visit: focus on parity of funding for charter schools, including for professional development and facilities management/acquisition. Hope to make use of this relationship.
- Meeting on October 27 with RSD and OPSB to make sure they are aware of our facilities needs.
- Presented to Coliseum Square association this week to talk about effort to expand in this neighborhood, including possibly into modular buildings. Board was very enthusiastic about ISL.
- We were also inspected as part of city-wide charter school inspections by Army Corps of Engineers and RSD; no word back yet.

Governance Committee report (Grant Ligon)

Overview of Committee responsibilities etc.

- Announcement that Tonya Morrow will be moving to Florida, and resign from the board, next month.

- Strategic plan and calendar; will be finalized at next board meeting and presented to school in early December
- Head of school: contract wording has been finalized; not yet signed. Evaluation plan is scheduled to come out in December.
- Governance committee moves to nominate Dottie Nelson to join ISL Board; unanimous passage.

Education committee

Marc Rosenblum presentation of challenges to opening a high school and four scenarios.
Audience comments:

- If it takes changing the charter to get seventh graders into a high school we should not rule out changing the charter.
- International Baccalaureate degree? This is something that we've talked about from the beginning and will be attractive to potential students.
- What would the issues be with bringing in kids from other schools? Parent believes that we'd be able to attract top notch kids and should not rule them out because they have not come through our school
- K-12 with IB degree has been the vision from the start; I am shocked to hear today that we are considering not doing this. Help would be available from French and Spanish consulates. We should put the community to work.
- Seems natural to draft a new charter for a high school; surprised that this has not been considered
- Lots of passion in favor of opening high school on schedule, whatever it takes.

Board comments:

- Carolyn: Can we talk to the Jefferson Parish school running an IBO curriculum as our partner institution?
- Carolyn: IBO runs introductory phase workshops; may be worth investing in attending one of those.
- Gina: remember that charter schools get no facilities portion of the MFP; the sharing model more difficult
- Karen: stay focused on mission and program of academics
- Marc: makes a pitch for why a shared facility with academic exchange is a good deal
- Sean: key issue is what is the language and experience that we are offering
- Grant: don't lose sight of challenges of running K-8

Marketing and Development

- Goals: Fundraising, marketing, community outreach, including in-reach to ISL community
- Would like M&D committee to be a liaison with FTCO and Scott to be representative to FTCO board
- Propose administration and board representatives at FTCO meetings
- New fundraising tools, including internet; friends of ISL/patron organization
- Specific fundraising prospects: skeptical about a top 100 prospects list; favor a top 10 who we really build relationships with rather than blanket mailing to 100 big names.

- Continue school tours.
- Re-start lecture series
- Support Fridge Art and ISL Fest
- Carolyn: Has the board met its matching challenge goal? Answer: all but one

Facilities
Four options for next year:
1) Modular classrooms on empty lot across the street
2) Obtain building from RSD
3) Purchase or renovate our own building
4) Build a new building

Finance committee
- At end of the year we expect to have $20,000 positive cash flow
- Financial statement highlights; see attached report.
- No real changes to grant worksheet apart from Pam's earlier presentation
- Recruitment of additional finance committee members; expect volunteer member from Edward Jones brokerage firm

Meeting adjourned: 9:28 PM