November 26, 2007
Committee to Board Report
ISL Education Committee
Marc Rosenblum, Committee Chair

The Education Committee met twice this month (Nov. 5 and Nov. 14), with the following results:

I Planning for a Shared Facility high school

The committee has chosen to focus its energy with respect to high school plans for the inaugural class of ISL students on establishing a shared facility/academic exchange plan with a partner institution for (at least) the 2009-2010 school year. The next step in our planning is to meet with potential partner schools to work out the terms of such an arrangement. We have contacted 3 possible partner schools, out of a total of 5 or 6 we believe would be suitable partners. Negotiations with potential partners will be based on the following assumptions:

1) What are our minimum criteria?
    a) Must have:
        i) Kids will graduate from ISL; under state law they must take [**unknown percentage**] of at ISL in order to do so. Some or all of these classes may be physically located in the partner school facility.
        ii) Our students must be able to take the remainder of their classes at the partner school; we anticipate that most of these classes will be in science/math fields
    b) Would also like to have (but not essential):
        i) Partner students take some classes at ISL; partner school pays ISL a portion of MFP for each class their kids take from ISL teachers;
        ii) Kids able to do some extracurriculars at partner school
2) What we can offer
    a) Willing to pay a per student rate; estimate that to be 65% of MFP (= entire 30% of MFP dedicated to facilities; ½ of 70% of MFP dedicated to academic expenses)
        i) Number of students in first 5 years: 15, 30, 35, 35, 45
    b) Teaching
        i) ISL teachers prepared to offer advanced language and/or cultural studies if demand is there; would charge ~11% of MFP per course (= 1/6 of annual academic expenses
3) Alternative scenarios
    a) ISL kids attend partner school part of the day (perhaps 8 – 2); take ISL classes at ISL in the PM. This could be a plan that allows partnerships with several different schools.
    b) Alternative financing formulas also possible
        i) Partner school could charge us a flat rate or calculate based on facilities + classes
        ii) ISL could charge per class or work into a comprehensive arrangement

Sean Wilson is still working on setting up meetings with partner schools. He has left messages for three schools, and we have at least one (and possibly three) others on our to-do list. No meetings have been scheduled so far. Melanie Tennyson is contacting the state to research the percentage of classes which students must take at ISL to graduate with an ISL degree.

II Independent High School Subcommittee

The committee voted on November 5 to establish a subcommittee of ISL stakeholders to solidify plans for an independent ISL high school. A letter was circulated (copy attached) to parents who attended the Committee's Nov. 14 meeting laying out the basic goals of this committee. The committee also contacted additional parents who have previously expressed interest in/concern about plans for an independent high school. In consultation with those parents, a meeting has been scheduled for Wed., December 12, 6:00 PM to get the independent high school committee in motion.

In our preliminary conversation with four parents who attended the Nov. 14 meeting, we discussed the possibility of conducting a poll of a sample of metro-area parents, contracting with UNO's poll to assist in the data collection. More info on this possibility to come.

III Other business

- Melanie and Laura A. have attended a pair of School Improvement Plan workshops. This is still a work in process.
- Sean, Melanie, and Karen plan to attend an IBO training session on December 2.
- Grant and Melanie plan to tour an IBO school in Lafayette
- School has hired a new tech coordinator who will help get heir evaluation software running and get Ed Line up and running.
- School has hired a new middle school French teacher