

NACOGDOCHES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

DATE: February 15, 2006
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: SFASU Early Childhood Lab, SFASU Campus, Nacogdoches, Texas

Governance Council Members:

Ms. Lysa Hagan Charter Campus Academic Leader
Mr. Terrance Acrey Parent Representative
Dr. John Jacobson Dean, College of Education, SFASU, Co-Chairman
Ms. Becky Griffith Faculty Representative
Ms. Lori Harkness Charter Campus Adviser
Dr. Tony Riehl NISD Superintendent, Co-Chairman
Dr. Janice Pattillo University Professor
Ms. Charlotte Stokes Community Representative

Attendance:

Terrance Acrey and Charlotte Stokes were unable to attend the meeting. Attending the meeting were Ad Hoc Member's Max McCarley, NISD; G.W. Neal, NISD; Dr. Peggy Cox, NISD. Weldon Beard, Director of Headstart, was in attendance for Charlotte Stokes. Also in attendance as a voting representative of Dr. Riehl was Interim Superintendent, Mr. David Sharp. Yvette Clark, SFASU Legal Council; Phil Mahar, NISD Board President; Melissa Wright, Charter School Administrative Assistant were also in attendance.

Co-Chairman Jacobson called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. following lunch.

The agenda was discussed in the following manner:

1. Consideration – Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2005.

A motion was made by Janice Pattillo to accept the minutes, second was by Lysa Hagan. The vote was unanimous.

2. Budget Information

Dr. Jacobson opened the discussion by pointing out that the Charter School had been operating without an approved budget for this year because of discrepancies in funding with NISD. He said that the

university had looked into dissolving the relationship with NISD and filing for a private charter but that SFA does not want to do that, that they want to continue the relationship. He said that a budget needs to be approved today.

Mr. Sharp expressed NISD's commitment to the university. He said that he and others from the Charter School had met the previous day and he was very impressed with the Charter School. He said that the partnership is in the best interest of both NISD and SFA. NISD will commit to keeping their obligation with the university and will meet all identified needs of the charter school for the rest of this year and then go to an established process.

Ms. Hagan discussed various handouts and the proposed 05/06 budget.

Phil Mahar said that he was glad the fund discrepancies had been called to the Board's attention. They were not aware that there was a problem. He said that "NISD will do everything we can to make this a successful joint venture – the NISD Board is definitely behind the Charter School."

Dr. Jacobson pointed out that it was supposed to be an 85-15% split with the charter school receiving 85% of state funds and NISD receiving 15%. The remainder should have been going into a fund for the Charter School but had not been (p. 13 of the charter).

Mr. Sharp pledged his support of the charter in the future and again, promised to take care of any immediate needs of the school. He said that NISD should be able to provide services as early as next week. Yvette Clark said that her office would have a lease agreement early next week so NISD could begin to provide maintenance for the Charter School.

Mr. Sharp recommended sitting down as a group and going through the Charter paragraph by paragraph so that there is a clear understanding of each paragraph.

Referring to the charter, X.E. Discontinuance of Campus or Program, Ms. Hagan, presented for consideration, deleting "prior to March 1" and adding "with a 90 day notice" to the paragraph. Thus, giving the Charter School an option to pursue a "university only" charter. Ms. Clark added that the reason for this wording change was that the University wants to make sure the budgetary commitment is fulfilled from year to year.

Mr. Sharp reiterated that the charter needs to be reviewed as a group and NISD was **not** going to allow this relationship to stop. NISD will fix this budget problem and move forward. He asked the University to give NISD an opportunity to prove themselves in the next 4-5 months without

having an “out” in the contract. He said that NISD has an obligation to this charter. He said, “On our word as educators, we will fulfill our obligation to this charter.” “We will come through and deliver.” He said this is speaking from him and the Board of NISD. Mr. Mahar reiterated that NISD is **not** turning around on the contract with the Charter School.

Ms. Hagan made a motion to accept the budget as proposed in the amount of \$558,099.73 based on NISD fulfilling the needs that arise for the rest of the school year. Any excess money would be put in a fund for the Charter School. Dr. Jacobson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Jacobson said that the co-chairs, Ms. Hagan, Ms. Clark, NISD legal rep., both business officers would get together to begin working on reviewing the Charter School agreement.

3. Charter School Information

Ms. Hagan reported that Dr. Finkenberg, chair of Kinesiology and Health Science, was allowing the Charter School to use the gym up to 3 days a week when not in use by SFA students. She invited Board members to thank Dr. Finkenberg for his accommodating efforts.

A new nurse paraprofessional has been hired part time and she is a student in the SFA nursing program.

The Board considered a letter from a parent asking that the Board allow her son admission into the Charter School in March. Ms. Hagan said that this is not a procedure that is done past six weeks into the school year. By general consensus, the board denied the request. Ms. Hagan will contact the mother concerning this decision.

4. Consideration – Personnel – Hiring

no business

5. Other Business

None

6. Date of Next Meeting

May 10, 2006, 12 noon, Early Childhood Lab

7. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.