

**CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS
CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CORAL SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL
MARCH 18, 2010**

The meeting commenced at 7:40 a.m. with a call to order by Acting Chair Dr. Randy Fine.

In addition to Dr. Fine, present were Board Members Dr. Debbie Swayman, Alternate Judy Gottesman and Vice-Mayor Claudette Bruck. Board members Dr. Mitchell Wallick, Jules Cohn and John Swetokos were absent.

Also present were Billie Miller, Principal, **Coral Springs Charter School**, Debbie Von Behren, Executive Vice President and Mary Vecchione both of **Charter Schools USA**. Also present were Ellen Liston, Deputy City Manager, Rhoda Glasco-Foderingham, Assistant City Attorney, Chelsea Stahl, Performance Measurement Analyst and Jo Chavez, Recording Secretary, Office of the City Clerk, all from the **City of Coral Springs**.

It was noted that the Minutes of February 18, 2010, page 2, item 6, should be corrected to reflect that Debbie Von Behren presented the staff survey.

Dr. Swayman motioned, seconded by Ms. Gottesman, to accept the Minutes of February 18, 2010, as amended. The motion was accepted unanimously (4-0).

There were no corrections to the February 24, 2010, teleconference meeting.

Dr. Swayman motioned, seconded by Vice-Mayor Bruck, to accept the minutes of February 24, 2010, as presented. The motion was accepted unanimously (4-0).

II. School Report

Principal Billie Miller presented the school report, beginning with a follow-up item. She noted that there was a question at the last regular meeting with regard to students who did not have money for school lunches. After checking, she found that credit is extended to students at least twice, and after that, the cafeteria administrator is advised of the on-going problem. The administrator tries to be very pro-active and tries to take steps to ensure that all students have the opportunity to have a good lunch. The students also have accounts and are always advised when the credit in the account is running low.

Ms. Miller then recapped current school events:

- The Sterling Committee visit has been completed and they are now waiting for the results. They have been notified that background checks are being done, which is very encouraging news.
- FCAT testing is complete with the exception of 4 students out of 1,200 students, which is exceptionally good. The school should have very close to 100%.
- With regard to student recommitments, there are fewer number outstanding than ever experienced in the past. There are now only about 75 students who have not yet indicated whether or not they were coming back.
- There are about 1,300 applications for entrance to the school, with the majority being 599 applications for the 6th grade and 250 for the 9th grade. Ms. Miller noted that the implementation of the SIS made it easier for new applicants to get a registration on-line, which streamlines the entire application process.
- The Student Government Association hosted a district meeting at the Charter School attended by the student governments from other schools.
- The high school production of "Fame" was outstanding. The middle school drama department is working very industriously on their production of "Beauty and the Beast" which will be presented in April.
- The high school band, for the first time ever, received an "Excellent" rating in their competition. Also, Women's Chorus will be going on to State competition, also coming up in April.
- This week at Coral Springs Charter School is dedicated to awareness of community involvement, with the focus on Haiti.
- This Friday evening is the first ever Dance Marathon beginning at 8:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 a.m. It is a charitable event sponsored by the DECCA Club.
- There was an unfortunate incident this past Tuesday evening that involved a student altercation between players at the Charter School and Deerfield School. While the incident was over in probably no more than 20 seconds, the game was called. But, because there was involvement by players on both teams, all individual players have been suspended from further athletic activity until the incident has been fully resolved. Ms. Miller will keep the Board advised on the status of this incident.

Ms. Miller noted with regret that she would be leaving at the end of this school year as principal of the Charter School. She also noted that she would not be leaving the organization, as she will accept a different position with Charter Schools USA as a Director in the Education Program Department. This will allow her the opportunity to work with principals in other schools.

Vice Mayor Bruck noted that she would support Ms. Miller in her decision, but very much regrets her decision to leave. She noted that the school has benefited from her leadership but also the spirit with which she has done her job.

Ms. Von Behren noted that Charter Schools USA feels extremely fortunate that Ms. Miller will be joining their organization since she will continue to be an excellent resource within the charter school network. Charter Schools USA will be searching for a replacement candidate both internally and externally in a very vigorous selection process.

Dr. Fine commented that it will not be easy to replace Ms. Miller and that she will indeed be very much missed. He thanked her for the wonderful job she has done at the Charter School and wished her well in her future endeavors.

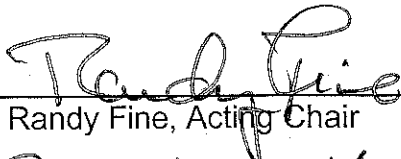
III. Finance and Legislative Review

Ms. Miller noted that it is budget time once again, and next week they will begin the review of next school year's staffing.

Ms. Von Behren noted that there would probably not be a funding increase again this year. There are several legislative changes being proposed, one being that high performance Charter Schools would get an automatic renewal of up to 15 years. Another legislative change relates to class size. The Charter School is at Level 2 which means an average number of teachers must be maintained based on a *school-wide average*, not necessarily an *average per classroom*. Charter schools have been working towards legislation that would enable them to stay at Level 2. This works much better towards maintaining a good student to teacher ratio, since, understandably, some classes like Advanced Placement (AP) will always have a smaller number of students, while regular classes could have a slightly larger number. There is another bill going forward that would do the same thing for all schools, not just charter schools. Ms. Von Behren concluded by noting that another reason that Charter Schools want to stay at Level 2 is that the State has not provided any funding to move to a Level 3, nor is there any research that indicates that Level 3 student to teacher ratio is ultimately beneficial to students.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 15, at City Hall, West Wing Conference Room, 7:30 a.m. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.



Dr. Randy Fine, Acting Chair



Josephine Chavez CRM, Recording Secretary

This meeting was recorded. A tape recording is on file in the City Clerk's Office for five years pursuant to Florida law and City policy. These minutes are a permanent public record of the City of Coral Springs maintained in the City Clerk's Office.

Date Approved: 4-15-10

Doc: 99084v1