

GOMPERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 21, 2009 5:00 P.M. Gompers Charter School Library, Cecil H. Steppe, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cecil H. Steppe, Winifred Hudgies, Cecil Lytle, Pete Chodzko, Bud Mehan, Michelle Evans, Vince Riveroll, Dede Alpert, Tyler Cramer and Mari Cruz Avalos

EXCUSED:

Scott Himmelstein, David Valladolid, Najib Mesdaq, Rafael Hernandez and Kimiko Fukuda

GUEST VISITORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Pilar Arballo, Jeremy Hurlbert, Jena Tran, Emily Fortunato, Karly Kerns, Barb Robinson, True Groff and Shanique Davis, ASB Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Cecil H. Steppe, the Board Chair. There was no request for public comment. The board reviewed the agenda items and November 18, 2008 minutes.

Mr. Cramer commented that on the Finance Report portion of the November minutes the resolutions are properly stated, but do not state the motion. Adjustments will be made per Mr. Cramer's recommendations.

Mr. Lytle reiterated comments he had made during the discussion of the Development Report, when he raised the issue of GCMS & GPA's long-term ramp-up needs. The reports seen so far do not take into consideration the additional costs encountered in running a high school (gym equipment, competitive sports, proms, yearbooks, etc.). He has asked staff to show a year-by-year itemized projection of development/fundraising needs through the senior year at a steady rate. Mr. Steppe stated that this report is forthcoming as part of the Finance Committee report.

Motion to approve November's minutes with adjustments m/s/c/Alpert/Evans

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The director's report was emailed in advance to board members. Director Riveroll introduced Shanique Davis, ASB Secretary. Ms. Davis announced the following events that will occur during February. An ASB sponsored school dance; Community Night, Thursday, February 12 from 6:00-8:00 P.M.; mid terms and semester report card distribution. Allison Kenda, COS gave an update on GPA – High School Charter Proposal. GCMS staff addressed each of the district's concerns, via edits to the proposed document and/or 1:1 meetings with district staff. After positive negotiations with SDUSD district personnel, GCMS has agreed to only have one speaker at next Tuesday's, January 27 board meeting. Mr. Cecil H. Steppe will speak on our behalf. The speeches of students and staff will be delivered to the board office prior to the meeting. We'll have a bus for parents to attend the board meeting and a celebration afterwards. SDUSD staff is recommending the approval of GPA. We are confident the SDUSD board will vote 5/0. COS office will e-mail the SDUSD board agenda once it is finalized to GCMS board members. Director Riveroll thanked the COS office for having responded to the district's 45 objections on a timely manner and for their hard work.

Jenny Parsons, Chief of Staff (COS) gave an update on Proposition 39 (Facilities request for GCMS and GPA.) We have requested the entire use of the upper west campus under the new structured timeline, with final offers due to charter schools by April 1st. The district must present their preliminary offers prior to February 1st. The district's Instructional Facilities Planning Department is in agreement with our ADA projection. Cecil H. Steppe, Michelle Evans and Dede Alpert will speak at the board meeting in the event the district's preliminary offer does not match our request. Director Riveroll explained that the MTM rendering shows the creation of a road to be used as the main entrance to the school with a bus turn around that would cut through our current athletic field. The MTM plans do not mention the athletic field, but does include the bus turn around. In addition, the MTM plans show that if they don't use the back bungalows, then other bungalows will be placed on the tennis courts. He also, shared his vision schemes for GCMS-GPA Growth.

Plan A – joint use of the athletic field to be used by GCMS/GPA, MTM and the community, build an L shaped building for the high school in back parking lot to include a gym with locker room.

Plan B – keep facilities, including the back bungalows to be used for GPA; GPA keeps the field area which will be in between the buildings; elevate the tennis courts for underground parking; no portables would be placed on the tennis courts.

Director Riveroll requested and obtained board consent to continue working with the current architect. Director Riveroll stated that we have not been at the table for discussion with the district. We need to be part of the negotiations so that we come to an understanding of our vision plan to grow. Our students deserve a high quality facility comparable to Mann/Lincoln. Mr. Tyler Cramer made reference to Education Code 47614; it states that “The intent of the people in amending Section 47614 is that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools.”

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Cecil Steppe recommends to the board the formation of the Executive Committee. This committee has the authority to approve any actions when the board is not in session and is called by the board chair to convene. They in turn will report back to the board. Mr. Steppe has asked Mr. Bud Mehan and Mrs. Winifred Hudgies to serve as members of the Executive Committee. Ms. Hudgies will function as the Vice Chair of the Board.

Motion to approve the recommendation m/s/c Steppe/Alpert

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

For detailed information please refer to Finance/Audit Committee Meeting handout provided at the meeting.

Upon motion duly made and adopted, the board approved the following resolutions:

Peter Chodzko stated that we will approve October's Financials and not November's, as this was stated incorrectly on the agenda.

Motion to approve October's financials m/s/c Chodzko/Evans

Motion to approve financials with corrections m/s/c/Lytle/Alpert

Motion to approve the submission of the 2008-2009 Consolidated Application for Funding Aid Programs, Part II and for Director Riveroll to be designated as the official signer.

Motion for approval to submit the application m/s/c Chodzko/Mehan

On the Budget Update section, Cecil Lytle asked “what is the cash value of the 11% we currently have in the reserve.” Director Riveroll provided the answer: approximately \$650,000.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Dede Alpert presented board members with copies of Development Report from December 2008 – January 2009. Ms. Alpert suggested that we should consider creating a “Friends of Gompers” modeled from the “Friends of San Pasquale Academy,” such as a plaque thanking our donors and it being prominently displayed. Mr. Lytle stated that he will continue discussing with Ms. Alpert and Ms. Strom the development of a signature event to fundraise for GPA for 09/10 school year. Board members present were encouraged to attend the 2nd Annual GCMS D.C. Benefit to be held Sunday, March 1 and to invite 10 guests. Ms. Alpert noted that a representative from the Parker Foundation will visit GCMS on Monday, January 26.

EDUCATION/GRANT COMMITTEE

Mr. Mehan shared that the GCMS leadership team will visit Preuss on Friday, February 20 for an afternoon “job alike” meeting. Members from the leadership team will visit high school classes by department and will congregate in the afternoon to debrief. He also shared information on a visit to GCMS and Preuss by AERA an educational research company. The visit has been scheduled in April, exact date yet to be determined.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Ms. Michelle Evans announced that in November 143 students had perfect attendance. The PIQE parenting classes will begin on Wednesday, January 28; sessions will be offered both in the mornings and afternoons. Community Night will be held on Thursday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Steppe reminded board members that the Statement of Economic Interest forms have to be on file by March 21. Ms. Steppe will ask Mr. Larry Tamayo, ExED to send the application electronically to all. He also, reiterated an invitation to board members present to visit GCMS on Mondays when college classes are held. In addition, he praised the quality of the professional development presented to teachers and support staff present on Monday, January 12. One of the key points touched upon was attendance. How can you teach when students are not present in your class? All staff focused on the business side of this issue, when 7% of students are not present we lose almost \$3,000. We need to develop extremely significant connections with families.

Director Riveroll informed board members of upcoming visits to GCMS
January 22 -State Senator, Christine Kehoe
January 29 – San Diego City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Terry Grier

The board adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paz A. Garcia R.

