



GOMPERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 17, 2009 5:00 P.M. Gompers Charter School Library, Cecil H. Steppe, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kimiko Fukuda, Peter Chodzko, Cecil H. Steppe, Vincent Riveroll, Scott Himmelstein, Najib Mesdaq, Bud Mehan, Michelle Evans, Winifred Hudgies, Rafael Hernandez, Tyler Cramer David Valladolid and Mari Cruz Avalos.

EXCUSED:

Dede Alpert

GUEST VISITORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Anita Landecker, Executive Director to ExED, Larry Tamayo, ExED, Kathryn Strom, Lisa Maples, Allison Kenda, Jenny Parsons, John Bartholomew, Tom Haakma, Emily Fortunato, Pilar Arballo, Jena Tran, True Groff, Isaac Ramos, ASB President, Greg Moser, with Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch, LLP, Gary Leivers, Andrew Evans and John Dale, architects with Harley Ellis Deveraux.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Cecil H. Steppe, the Board Chair. There was no request for public comment. The board reviewed the agenda items and January 21, 2009 minutes.

Mr. Mehan commented that on the Education/Grant Committee portion of the minutes AERA is an educational research organization and not a company.

Motion to approve January's minutes with correction m/s/c/Mehan/Fukuda – Abstained Himmelstein

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was emailed in advance to board members. Director Riveroll introduced Isaac Ramos, ASB President, who spoke about Community Night, college class, academic supports, and planning of 8th grade activities.

Director Riveroll introduced attorney, Greg Moser, who advised the board about options regarding the combination of GCMS and GPA. Mr. Moser commented that the GCMS and GPA Bylaws must be amended to match with the charter, and went on to give a brief but detailed explanation on the organizational options for GCMS and GPA. For detailed information on Mr. Moser's presentation refer to the handout distributed.

At Mr. Cramer's request, Mr. Moser commented on risk management and liability, observing that nonprofit corporations have become the dominant model to limit risk liability. He also recommended isolating the middle school operations from the high schools for protection.

Mr. Himmelstein asked about the downside of the "Aspire" model. Mr. Moser replied that there is not a lot of liability separation. In response to a question by Mr. Lytle, Mr. Moser explained that the schools may be held liable for each other's actions, to which Mr. Lytle concluded that there may not be an advantage to having two separate corporations.

In response to a question from Mr. Mehan regarding the most sensible option for GCMS given current conditions, Mr. Moser stated that either option would work, but the board must decide which way they would like to go and follow the appropriate steps.

At Mr. Lytle's request, Mr. Moser confirmed that the Preuss School follows the Aspire model.

Mr. Himmelstein shared a point of information with board members present, "We currently have a corporation called GPA and it has a board. We are the board. So, it's interpreted that the board is the same.

Director Riveroll stated that GCMS's sister school, Keiller Leadership Academy (KLA), had recently experienced a leadership transition and is experiencing some difficulty, and raised the question of creating a partnership with KLA.

Mr. Steppe commented that he did not feel that the current time was right to form a partnership with Keiller. He spoke about the idea of KLA becoming a K-5 and subsequently issues with transportation and the community that may arise.

Mr. Lytle spoke about a feasibility study between UCSD and Paula Cordeiro, Dean of the School of Education at USD.

Mr. Steppe asked the board if there were any objection to Mr. Mehan and Mr. Lytle collaborating with Ms. Cordeiro. As there were no objections, Mr. Mehan and Mr. Lytle will continue the conversation with Ms. Cordeiro.

Director Riveroll introduced architects from the firm Harley Ellis Devereaux, John R. Dale, Gary Leivers and Andrew Evans, who presented their Proposed Master Planning / Conceptual Design for Gompers Charter Middle / High School Expansion. The new campus design would include many new components, including a new gymnasium, joint-use athletic field, and amphitheatre. The approximate total cost for the project is \$29,400,828.

Director Riveroll explained the premise of Freshman Academy, one of the academic supports GCMS offers to its ninth graders, and introduced Pilar Arballo, a ninth grade teacher who is also the lead of the Freshman Academy program. Mrs. Arballo explained the structure of Freshman Academy and shared the successes of the program.

Director Riveroll explained our new program, Freshman PM.

Director Riveroll presented a brief clip on the events that showed Honor Roll, Community Night, and Black History Month Celebration.

Director Riveroll introduced Chief of Staff, Jenny Parsons to update the board on Proposition 39. Mrs. Parsons shared that GCMS is currently in negotiations with the San Diego Unified Board of Education to outfit GPA's classrooms and facilities in a comparable manner to Lincoln High School.

Director Riveroll introduced the Chief of academics, Allison Kenda, to present a PowerPoint that explained the benefits and drawbacks of moving to the El Dorado SELPA. Ms. Kenda explained that the application had been submitted to El Dorado and the action item of the board was to approve the submission of that application.

The Board approved submission of the application to join the El Dorado SELPA.

m/s/Himmelstein/Evans

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Steppe requested that the board bypass the Development Committee, Education and Parent Engagement Reports in order to get to the closed session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

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

Motion to accept December's financials with corrections m/s/c Chodzko/Valladolid

Mr. Chodzko stated that GCMS is doing very well financially due to conservative budgeting, careful cash flow planning, and maintaining a smaller staff. Mr. Chodzko recommended that in order for GCMS to stay financially sound, there must be significant fundraising each year.

Mr. Chodzko explained that the school's contract with the auditing firm of Wilkinson, Hadley, King and Co. has expired and the school has decided not to renew their contract. After interviewing several firms, the Finance Committee has decided to recommend the firm of Nigro, Nigro, and White, who were selected because of the additional services provided.

The board approved the Finance Committee's recommendation for a new auditing firm.

Motion for approval to accept the recommendation m/s/c Chodzko/Himmelstein

Mr. Chodzko deferred to Director Riveroll and Mr. Tamayo. Director Riveroll shared priorities for staffing at GPA, noting that the schools will have shared positions. He also shared three budget scenarios of increasing fundraising requirement.

The board adjourned at 7:30 p.m. for a closed board session

Respectfully submitted by K. Strom/Paz A. Garcia R.

