

Minutes for 10/12/10 Board of Trustees Meeting

1. Call to Order: Lori Rudd called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Members in Attendance: Bill Buckley, Kathleen Crawford, Steve DiPrete, Reem Ozone, and Lori Rudd. Also in Attendance: Heidi Berkowitz, Ron Griffin, Dawn Hall, Todd Hassett, Mark Logan, and Ed Lucy.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Tabled until next meeting
3. Awards, Honors, and Recognition: None at this time
4. Board Committee Reports
 - 4.1. Board Development: Lori Rudd asked trustees for preferred dates in November for the Board Retreat. After some discussion, 11/22/10 was selected. More information will follow by email.
 - 4.2. Facilities Committee
 - 4.2.1. School Expansion: Todd Hassett reported that general contractor bids were opened at 4:30 PM today. There were five bids and the apparent low bidder was Agostini Construction Company, with a bid of \$13,248,700. HMFH will make a recommendation to the Building committee, which will bring its recommendation to the Board.
 - 4.3. Finance Committee
 - 4.3.1. School Expansion: Todd Hassett reported that the school hosted a tour and presentation for Standard & Poor's last Tuesday, 10-05-10. Their credit rating of the school is expected by Thursday, 10-14-10, or Friday, 10-15-10. Today was the due diligence meeting, conducted via conference call. MassDevelopment will be meeting on Thursday, the 14th to approve the FRCS bond deal. We expect the preliminary offering to go out Friday, the 15th, or Monday, the 18th. We are still on target for pricing to occur during the 1st week of November.
 - 4.3.2. Related Financial Matters: Kathleen Crawford reported that enrollment as of today is 1183 and could go as high as 1191, but only if all families who have been offered positions accept them. Tuition income will be higher than budgeted, but only modestly. Lori Rudd inquired of Todd and Mark how per pupil income might be affected by the Commonwealth's apparent \$2 billion deficit. Both Todd and Mark think it is more likely to affect FRCS next school year, but it's possible we would see a 4th quarter reduction. Steve DiPrete inquired of Todd whether he could prepare a post bond-closing balance sheet and this would certainly be possible. Kathleen stated that finances are moving on several fronts now, with the GC bid coming in lower than budgeted, tuition up modestly, and positive year-to-date budget to actual.
 - 4.3.3. Interim Budget to Actual through September 30, 2010, items of interest: Kathleen Crawford pointed out to the board that net reserve is \$241K in the school's favor after three months. Todd reminded the board that the school has spent more than \$400K on the expansion project that is reimbursable through bond proceeds.

5. Special Reports

5.1. Leadership Report

5.1.1. Ron Griffin, Director of Teaching and Learning, gave a detailed presentation on MCAS results. Ron opined that FRCS is far ahead of other districts in terms of what we do with MCAS and AYP data and how important it is to react quickly to the patterns and details this data provides. He gave some background on the expectations of No Child Left Behind. Ron gave a balanced treatment of highlights and areas of need for ELA and math. He explained several actions the school is taking for cohorts and individual students and how these actions can and do result in curriculum initiatives, student supports, and even scrutinizing instruction by individual teachers.

5.2. Enrollment: Reported in the context of Finance

6. Policy Review: Lori Rudd introduced FRCS Community Standards for Behavior for its first reading. Mark gave some background of how he and the lawyers approached the policy. There were no examples of this type of “appropriate adult behavior” policy in his research. Trustees discussed the policy and shared that they would like the language to be stronger or more direct. Kathleen Crawford offered to rework this draft before the November retreat.
7. Old Business: None at this time.
8. New Business: None at this time.
9. Privilege of the Floor: None at this time.
10. Items for Next Board Meeting: Next month’s meeting is a board retreat on 11/22/10. Lori Rudd will share the agenda soon by email. She expects our start time to be around 5 or 5:30 PM. Second reading of adult anti-bullying policy, expansion project update.
11. Having no other business, Kathleen Crawford made a motion at 8:30 PM to adjourn to Executive Session, on matters related to contract negotiations, not to return to public session. Steve DiPrete seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote: Bill Buckley-yes, Kathleen Crawford-yes, Steve DiPrete-yes, Reem Ozone-yes, and Lori Rudd-yes.