



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2008**

- Trustees Present:** F. George Jacome; Gerald Audet; Robert F. Collins; Jeffrey T. Karam; Teresa Nelson; Beverly Pavao; Brenda Reback; Peter A. Saulino, Esq.; James A. Wallace, Jr.; Jonathan Taradash, (BOT Staff Intern)
- Trustees Absent:** Dr. Thomas J. Curry (excused); Fernando Garcia (excused)
- Support Staff Present:** Fernando M. Goulart, Executive Director; Thomas Paul, Director of Business; Henrique M.F. Madeira, Principal – Upper School; Kerry S. Kennedy, Principal – Lower School; Dr. Diane Desrosiers, Director of Student Services; Joanne Rahme, Dean of Students; Kristi Oliveira, Human Resources Manager; Mathieu Pilote, Family Learning Center Director
- Community Input:** None
- Call to Order:** Mr. Jacome officially called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Jacome welcomed all of the new staff members in attendance and thanked them for attending the Board meeting.
- Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Jacome presented the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting of August 27, 2008, emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board members. A motion was made by Mr. Audet to dispense with the reading of the Minutes and to accept the Minutes as presented; seconded by Atty. Saulino, and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Correspondence:** Mr. Jacome presented a letter from the Charter School Office approving the appointment of Mrs. Beverly Pavao as a Board member and Mr. Jonathan Taradash as Board of Trustees Staff Intern. Mr. Jacome stated that it is wonderful to have these two additions to the Board and looks forward to working with both of them.
- Staff Presentations:** None
- Financial Report:** A motion was made by Mr. Collins to waive the reading of the Financial Report, seconded by Mr. Wallace and **APPROVED** unanimously. A copy of the Financial Report was emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board members and is on file in the Office of the Board of Trustees.
- Committee Reports:**
- Development Committee:**
No report.
- Education Committee:**
No report.
- Facilities Committee:**
Mr. Karam reported that the Facilities Committee had met prior to tonight’s Board meeting and had reviewed several proposals from environmental and architectural firms.

Mr. Karam stated that the Facilities Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board select SITEC as the environmental firm with whom to enter into an agreement. Mr. Karam added that SITEC was also the lowest bidder.

A motion was made by Mr. Collins to enter into an agreement with Sitec for environmental and wetland studies, seconded by Mr. Audet and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Karam stated that the Facilities Committee has narrowed the search to two architectural firms, DRA and HMFH to complete the vision and programming plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to provide the Facilities Committee with the authority to interview, select and hire an architectural firm from the final two candidates, seconded by Mr. Audet and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Collins reported that Atlantis has received two proposals concerning the signing of a lease for the billboard located on the new property. The first proposal was by ClearChannel. It is for a six-year lease at \$1,500 per month. It provides an opt-out clause with no repercussions as long as ClearChannel is given a 120-day notice.

Mr. Collins reported that there is a second company willing to pay a higher monthly fee for the billboard. However, since the billboard structure is owned by ClearChannel, should we decide to lease the billboard to another company, a new structure would need to be erected and as such create a lengthy permitting process.

Mr. Collins stated that the Finance Committee is recommending approving the six-year lease with ClearChannel at a fee of \$1,500 per month and including the opt-out clause.

A motion was made by Mr. Audet to approve the Finance Committee to approving the six-year lease with ClearChannel at a fee of \$1,500 per month and including the opt-out clause, seconded by Mr. Wallace and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Nominating Committee:

No report.

Personnel Committee:

No report.

Old Business:

Atty. Saulino reported that the By-Law change regarding the hiring and evaluation of the Business Manager was being tabled until the next meeting. Atty. Saulino stated that the by-law change needs to be reviewed by all board members fifteen days prior to the next Board meeting and he was not able to accomplish this task.

Mr. Goulart stated that while he was hoping to provide the Board with a MCAS comparison of Atlantis Charter School vs. Fall River District, he is unable to do that at this time due to the fact that the scores are only officially being released tomorrow. Mr. Goulart stated that he had a phone interview with Grant Welker from the Fall River Herald News and that an article should be in the paper tomorrow. Once the scores are officially released, Mr. Goulart will make the comparison and email all of the Board members the information.

Mr. Goulart stated that the issue of replacing Mrs. Robin Morin was still open and as such, the Board needs to consider how they will fill her position. Mr. Goulart stated that, according to the current by-laws, the individual who replaces Mrs. Morin could only sit on the board for the remainder of Mrs. Morin's term. Mr. Jacome stated that he does not feel that this is a pressing

issue, and he would like to think about it and wait to make a decision.

Ms. Nelson inquired as to the purpose of not allowing the Staff Board Intern to vote during the first year in the position. Mr. Wallace explained that it is to make sure that people get the opportunity to see what the Board is all about. Mr. Jacome stated that for newly appointed Board members, they automatically can vote without the one-year waiting period and doesn't feel it should be different for Staff Board Interns.

New Business:

Mr. Jacome stated that the assignment of committee chairs and memberships is being tabled for now due to changes that need to be reflected in the by-laws.

Mr. Jacome stated that he would like a copy of the most up-to-date by-laws emailed to every trustee. Mr. Jacome stated that he would also like a copy of the by-laws and the minutes placed in the Human Resources office for easy accessibility to Board members, employees, etc.

Mr. Jacome stated that if there are any board members who have preferences as to which subcommittees they sit on, to please call him.

Mr. Goulart stated that he had received a letter from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as to items that need to be included and excluded from the By-Laws. Mr. Goulart stated that it was important to revise the by-laws by December as part of the Renewal Application process.

Mr. Goulart stated that there might be a change to the school calendar. Mr. Goulart explained that an opportunity has presented itself for a two day Math and Phonics training. Therefore, it is being suggested to staff to swap the Friday, January 2, 2009 professional development day for Saturday, October 25, 2008.

Mr. Goulart stated that the boiler in the Upper School needs to be replaced. The first quote that came in was \$31,000. Mr. Goulart stated that he is still waiting for 3 additional bids to come in. Mr. Goulart is working with the insurance company to try to resolve this issue as the boiler is insured.

Mr. Goulart stated that every Board member received a copy of the trainings being offered to new Board members through Massachusetts Center for Charter Public School Excellence in partnership with Marci Cornell-Feist, a national presenter who works with non-profit groups in particular charter schools. Mr. Goulart stated that if anyone is interested in attending this training to contact Vivian Carreiro so that registrations can be completed.

Mr. Goulart announced that the 2009 National Charter School Conference will be held in Washington D.C. June 20 – 23. Mr. Jacome stated that even though no other information is available, it will give the Board members an opportunity to look at their schedules and see if they will be able to attend the conference. Mr. Goulart stated that 2 slots are usually saved for staff members and that the National Charter School Conference provides an insight to how other charter schools in the nation operate.

Mr. Goulart stated that he had received a letter and brochure from the North Andover School system regarding a superintendent replacement. Mr. Goulart stated that it was an inexpensive idea for recruitment of the next Executive Director.

Mr. Goulart inquired as to the direction the Board would like to proceed in regards to hiring a Development Director. Mr. Jacome stated that hiring a Development Director sounds like an idea with a lot of merit but is going to defer this to the Personnel Committee as part of an overall Strategic Plan.

Mr. Wallace inquired as to any movement on the Charter Renewal. Mr. Goulart reported that he has been in contact with both Mary Street and Emily Lichtenstein and that they have stated that before we can proceed, we need to receive our MCAS scores to incorporate into the renewal application. Mr. Goulart stated that it looks as though Atlantis will be undergoing a

site visit in either January or February. Once the report is finalized, it will be presented to the Board of Education at their September meeting with the vote for renewal at the following monthly meeting.

Mr. Goulart stated that a generous donation of \$1,000 had been given to the Atlantis Charter School Building Fund by a Board member who would like to remain anonymous.

Adjournment: At 7:56 PM, a motion was made by Atty. Saulino to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Collins and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Cafeteria of the Upper School located at 37 Park Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Thomas J. Curry
Secretary