

COASTAL EMPIRE MONTESSORI COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (CEMCO)

Executive Session

17 Nov 2009

Members Present:

Dr. David Lerch – Board President

Mr. George Bowen – Secretary

Ms Stephanie Wright

Mr. Sanford Jones

Mr. Ben Price

Ms Mary Shank

Mr. Carlos Hernandez - Treasurer

Ms Tanya Melville

Executive Session: Called to order at 3:05PM

Discussion of decision letter authored by Board Attorney Lea Holliday. Focus of letter was Preschool programs by Charter Schools. Board discussed ramifications of the letter and approach we should take to respond to it.

Executive Session Closed at 3:24PM

COASTAL EMPIRE MONTESSORI COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (CEMCO)

General Session

17 Nov 2009

Members Present:

Dr. David Lerch – Board President

Mr. George Bowen – Secretary

Ms Stephanie Wright

Mr. Sanford Jones

Mr. Ben Price

Ms Mary Shank

Mr. Carlos Hernandez - Treasurer

Ms Tanya Melville

1. Call to Order at 3:26PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion to by Ms Mary Shank and seconded by Mr. Carlos Hernandez the agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of item 4.06 – Lawn Maintenance Contract.

3. Report by Head of School. – Ms Melville called the board's attention to a desire by some parents to pay tuition using Pay Pal. The cost for this service is \$30.00 per month plus a per item transaction fee. Given that only one parent was interested in this method of payment currently, the board opted to defer a decision on this until we have time to review the cost impact on the school. HOS also asked that Board Members make an effort to be present tomorrow during the visit by the accreditation agency for secondary schools. Other HOS Report items are in the attachment 1.

4. BOARD OF EDUCATION MATTERS.

4.01. Comments by the Public – It was called to the Board's attention by Ms Broady that CEMCO was not making available agenda and meeting dates to the public. This is a violation of the open meeting laws. It was agreed that we would post meeting dates and agenda at the Board of Education and at the School site. Notice will also be posted on the CEMCS web site once it is up and operational.

4.02. 2010 Facilities Grant – Dr. Lerch briefed the board on a state facilities grant of \$60,000. He proposed the use of the funds to bring another portable on the campus to serve as a library and multi-purpose facility. He has contacted William Scotsman and has a proposal to deliver a 68 by 24 two classroom portable at a cost of approximately \$35,712.00 inclusive of installation, utilities and site preparation. Other funds would be used for decking, utilities and installation of alarms. Detail cost data is available at the school. On a motion by Mr. Ben Price and Mr. Sanford Jones the use of the funds from the grant was approved unanimously by the Board.

4.03. Letter to SCCPS from Lea Holliday – Mr. Holliday submitted an opinion to the SCCPS School Board in which he suggest that CEMCO modify its charter to address the 3 year old tuition based program. After much discussion, the Board has opted to hold off on any action until a formal notice is received from SCCPS requesting a charter amendment. Dr. Lerch suggested that at the time of such a request that we submit a modification to the charter and ask for a new agreement that spans five years.

4.04. New Building Committee Status – Ms Melville suggested that we need to develop a strategic plan to address the facilities needs of the campus. She felt that teachers, Board Members, Parents and professional facilities planners need to be involved. She was of the opinion that adding portable without a strategic plan did not serve the interest of the school. Ensuing discussion surface the need to make compromises to achieve our ultimate objectives. It was agreed that action would be taken to establish a strategic planning committee to shape a long term plan to address the long term goals of the school. Ms Melville is taking the lead to bring teachers and parents into the process. Dr. Lerch and Mr. Sanford Jones will join in the process to round out the strategic planning process. It was also agreed to attempt to get the original architectural team into the process. Formal adoption of members of this process will be discussed further at the January 2010 meeting.

4.05. Three Year Old Program – The need to bring more three year olds into the school was discussed. Ms Melville felt we needed to develop a marketing program. Since no action has occurred as a result of last month's program, the board accepted Mr. Ben Price's offer to work with Ms. Melville to develop a marketing plan. We also agreed that we need to pursue opportunities to market the school on local radio, television and printed media. Savannah Morning is one of the vehicles we need to target as they reach many of the individuals who constitute our target audience.

4.06. Lawn Maintenance Contract – Mr. George Bowen has been overseeing and paying for lawn maintenance pending award of a contract by the Board. At his request the Board formally agreed to award a contract to Mr. Rob Collins for a one year period based on a per visit cost of \$275.00. Mr. Bowen will continue to manage the contract and insure time payment to the contractor.

5. CONSENT - Nothing to Report

6. FINANCE

6.01. 2009 – 2010 School Budget - School is current operating at a monthly deficit averaging around \$3K monthly.

6.01 – Use of Funds - Pursuit of grants is a critical component of strategy to overcome current operating deficit.

7. ADJOURNMENT - On a motion by Mr. Ben Price and Ms Mary Shank Meeting ended at 5:10PM. December meeting will be on the 17th at 3:00PM..