

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc.
Board Meeting: October 29, 2009

School(s): Keys Gate Charter School

The minutes of Sunshine Law meetings need not be verbatim transcripts of the meeting. These minutes are a brief summary of the events of the meeting.

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
10.29.09	8:30 a.m.	10:50 a.m.	11.12.09	8:30 a.m.	Mary Vecchione
Meeting Location:					
Homestead Hospital, Executive Board Room, 975 Baptist Way, Homestead, Florida					
Attended by:					
Mr. Corey Gold, Chairman Ms. Lindsay Fox, Director Ms. Jenn Helms, Director Mr. John Maas, Director Ms. Peggy Wells, Director Absent: Ms. Traci Tam, Director Mr. Ryan Ayers, Director			Mr. Richard Page, VP of Bus Dev, CSUSA Mr. Ed Pozzuoli, General Counsel, CSUSA Mr. Mark Antonelli, General Counsel, HCF, Inc. (by phone) Mr. Mike Essik, Director of Finances, CSUSA Mr. Allen Coleman, Accounting Mgr, CSUSA Ms. Mary Vecchione, Governing Board Liaison, CSUSA Ms. Robin Sandler, Principal, KGCS Ms. Delgado, Assistant Principal, KGCS Ms. Sharon Smith, Business Administrator, KGCS		
Highlights:					

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. with a Call to Order by Chairman Gold. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Gold asked the Board members to review the minutes from the September meeting and note any corrections or revisions. The minutes stand.

Motion made by Ms. Wells with a second by Ms. Fox to approve the minutes from the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc., September 17, 2009 Governing Board Meeting. The motion was approved 5-0. (2 absent)

Chairman Gold commented to the Board that a letter of resignation was received by Mr. Ryan Ayers. He called for a motion to accept the resignation.

Motion made by Ms. Fox with a second by Mr. Maas to approve the resignation of Mr. Ryan Ayers as a Director of the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. Governing Board. The motion was approved 5-0 (1 absent, 1 open seat).

Chairman Gold asked for a revision of the agenda. The Governing Board Consolidation discussion was moved to follow the School Report on the agenda. All were in favor.

II. SCHOOL REPORT

- Ms. Sandler reported enrollment of 1150 students with a budgeted enrollment of 1148. There are currently no staffing positions open.
- Benchmark 2 has been completed and the results are now being reviewed with Benchmark 1. Each student will be evaluated as to their strengths and weaknesses and a plan implemented to focus on those areas.
- The Leading Edge Program for staff has been identified and allows an opportunity for those staff members wishing to move within the company to have professional training on leadership skills.
- The MAP award money for academic year 2008-09 has been distributed and about 8 teachers at KGCS received this bonus.
- Ms. Sandler discussed the mayoral debate this evening at the school. She encouraged the Board members to attend.
- School and Community activities include debate, STRIVE, Student Government and a Harvest Fall Feast.
- Ms. Sandler reviewed the School Improvement Plan and highlighted areas in each of the 5 strategic categories. She reviewed those highlights for the Board members.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Governing Board Consolidation

- Chairman Gold began with a brief overview of the reasons this Board is considering the consolidation of the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. He acknowledged and thanked the parents for attending and encouraged them to offer their input when asked.
- A teleconference call was placed to Mr. Mark Antonelli, General Counsel for the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. Pozzuoli commented that as of the last meeting, the attorneys have been working on an agreement for the consolidation of the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. and the Board members of the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. The goals and direction were designed out of conversations with the Board members at previous meetings and workshops. The goals were outlined and included:
 - The development, financing and construction of a new high school and an extension of the current KGCS
 - Enrollment preferences were a priority
 - Protect the existing Capital Outlay Funds
 - Provide for local input and participation
 - Retain the existing board as members of the Local School Governing Council (LSGC)
 - If plans were not attainable, revert back to existing Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. Board structure and members
- Mr. Pozzuoli went through the Consolidation Agreement document provided to the Board.
- General Conversation and discussion reverted back to the City of Homestead and the traffic concurrency issues that have been a previous concern. It was indicated that CSUSA received a letter from the City manager on the traffic issues. We will submit a new application and it is expected that the City will support and commit to work with HCF on the new school. There has been an updated traffic study for the area and there are 3 remaining issues to resolve.

There is every indication that these issues will be attainable for the new school construction. There is an agreement that the addition of turning lanes, a staggered start time for the school, and additional bus service would address the outstanding issues.

- The Board members asked for clarification of the RECS Board, its structure, members, etc, and that there is no local connectivity represented on the Board. Mr. Pozzuoli indicated that they would have local representation by electing one of their members to sit on that board. Also, the bylaws would need to be amended to address the new local governing body. In addition, the Board members expressed concern over the lack of authority they would have. Mr. Pozzuoli stated that this was a reality but the RECS Board would act upon the recommendation of the Local Board.
- Mr. Maas and Mr. Antonelli showed concern over the FL statute 1001.452 which states "each advisory council shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business & community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school."
- Chairman Gold asked the Board to consider the community and what was right for the community. Parent should be made aware of the transition process and the new local governing body and its changes. He asked the Board if they felt it necessary to arrange a speaking engagement with the parents to discuss these matters. General feeling from the Board and the parents present was that there has been ample opportunity for the parents to discuss this and there have been several opportunities for them to attend discussions and meetings.
- Chairman Gold asked what the final deadline is for this approval to move forward in a timely manner with the new school. Mr. Page indicated that we needed a decision today to make things work. The time limit for the financing and District approval is November.
- Parents were asked to express their feelings. There was an overall feeling that it was time to move forward and begin the process for the new school.
- It was evident that the majority of parents and Board members felt that it was the right time to move forward and pursue the option of a high school for the community of Homestead.
- Mr. Antonelli asked the Board members to address their issues and concerns to him directly by email and he would format the Consolidation Agreement to include those necessary items.

Motion made by Ms. Fox with a second by Ms. Wells that the Board moves to authorize the Chairman of the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. to execute a Consolidation Agreement with the Renaissance Charter Schools, Inc. that is acceptable to all parties, which include the Chairman and General Council for HCF. The motion was approved 5-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

- Mr. Antonelli asked the Board to send their comments and concerns to him directly and reminded them of the Florida Sunshine Laws and restrictions on discussion with each other. Ms. Vecchione will send Mr. Antonelli's contact information to the Board.

- Mr. Page will address the PTSO and parents at the next PTSO meeting in November. He will explain the new high school, board structure and answer any concerns they might have.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Wellness Plan

- Ms. Vecchione reminded the Board that the Wellness Plan needs approval from the Board. The plan is a requirement of the National School Lunch Program and is part of the process to appropriate funds for that program. The Wellness Plan demonstrates that the school promotes healthy eating, physical activity, and has an emphasis on a healthy lifestyle. This is the same plan that they approved last year.

Motion Made by Ms. Wells with a second by Mr. Maas to approve the Wellness Plan for the Keys Gate Charter School for the academic year 2009-10. The motion was approved 5-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

V. OPEN FORUM

- Chairman Gold asked the parents for comments and thanked them for coming.
- All unaddressed board agenda items will be moved to the next board meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held on November 12, 2009.

Motion made by Ms. Wells with a second by Mr. Maas to adjourn the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. Governing Board meeting. The motion was approved 5-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

Corey Gold, Chairman

Date: _____