

Career Academy of South Bend, Inc.
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
November 19, 2013

Directors Present: Larry Garatoni, Tracy Graham, Vivian Sallie, Suzanne Wiwi
By Phone: Bruce Greenberg
Directors Absent: James Summers, Rob Staley
Staff Attending: Ken Horvath, Charles Loeser, Chad Addie, Diane Swoape, many in audience

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Bend Career Academy was held at the school, 3801 Crescent Circle, South Bend, beginning at 6:45 pm on November 19, 2013.

A. Call To Order & Introductory Remarks. Larry Garatoni called the meeting to order and explained that the next meeting would be accelerated to December 3 to be held the same evening as an interview for the School Leader position, to be done at an executive session following a shortened public meeting.

B. Approval Of Minutes. The board approved the minutes of the October meeting.

C. Strategic Visioning. Larry explained the board is in the process of planning goals/objectives for the next 3-5 years, to be followed by action plans. Notes of the meetings will be provided to the staff.

D. Presentation As To NWEA Data. Diane Swoape gave a presentation as to the scores of the NWEA tests given at the beginning of the year (2013-14). Average SBCA scores are still below national norms, but there has been improvement. These tests are beneficial for identifying weaknesses and helping students set goals, which in past years has been helpful for many students. Tracy asked what's a good measure of success. Diane said growth is the most important factor. Bruce asked if the school grade is based on growth. The answer is that growth is a factor but the current school grade system is based primarily on the percentage of students passing a state-defined score; whether to shift to a more growth-oriented standard is a hot political topic: that is what the new State Superintendent, Glenda Ritz, is proposing.

E. Reading Program. Michelle Fitzgerald, who teaches eighth grade language arts, gave a presentation on the "Drop Everything And Read" program, which has helped many students not only become better readers but more motivated to read. Bruce Greenberg suggested the school might consider the myOn reading program (<http://www.myon.com/>), which he found very beneficial for the Family and Children's Center (which Bruce managed). Suzanne commented that a program that puts students in the habit of reading for pleasure is a major academic advantage; having a good choice of books is key.

F. Parent Teacher Conferences. Mike Parsons said the turn out for parent conferences this fall was high: 110 parents, 46% of students (but greater for middle school than high school). He suggested ideally there should be two conference opportunities per semester.

G. School Operations. Chad began the school operations report by introducing presentations from student presenters. Ninth graders Stefan Lula and Chris Swartz, working with Jasen Gibbens, CTE Team Leader, gave a presentation on a very new and complex software system, "CAVE2", now used at the University of Chicago (see <http://www.evl.uic.edu/core.php?mod=4&type=1&indi=424>): a large-scale virtual-reality environment combining scalable-resolution display walls and virtual-reality systems to create a 2D/3D

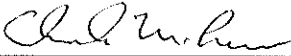
environment, which they suggested could be profitable for the school to own and lease, but would require a substantial investment. Mr. Garatoni said such an investment isn't realistic for the school at this point but the interest and research is commendable. Another student, Brooklyn Franklin, working with her mentor, WorkOne representative Alkeyna Aldridge, gave a presentation on the "Jobs for America's Graduates" (JAG) (<http://www.jag.org/>) program at SBCA, helping provide career guidance for disadvantaged youth. Ms. Franklin said the program has helped her overcome social skills issues, taught her to prepare a resume and interview, and helped her get a job. Chad said he would like to begin the JAG program in earlier grades (it now states at 11th grade), which would be unprecedented, but there's no reason why not. Ms. Aldridge agreed.

Chad discussed the two-day "Challenge Day" program (see <http://www.challengeday.org/>) held at SBCA October 21-22 and distributed written comments from students reflecting that for many, the program was an opportunity to "be heard" on life-important matters in an unprecedented way, helping to overcome emotional issues that often are major constraints on academic potential. Chad reported enrollment as of mid-November was 370, of which 91 are Crossing students, so the inhouse SBCA count is 279, the largest classes being grade 8 (64), 9 (52), 10 (63) and 11 (53), with 33 seventh graders and 14 seniors. Roughly 40% of students are new to SBCA this year. SBCA is reviewing options for a "turn around" program for students who habitually disregard school rules or lack motivation to work in a team-based learning environment. Chad said there's been progress with starting implementation of the new teacher evaluation system, using the "PIVOT" system (<http://five-startech.com/k-12-education1/k-12-software-solutions/pivot>). Chad said there's been good progress in cultivating relationships with businesses, in particular with Federal Mogul (visited by 15 SBCA advanced manufacturing students on November 8) and Memorial Hospital (visit on November 14). The school has met with representatives of Project Lead The Way and additional meetings are planned. The board approved Chad's operations report.

H. Financials. Ken presented the October financial statement and bank detail/claims paid report. State tuition funding will be lower for November-December to adjust for actual enrollment being lower than the estimates used for prior payments, but the effect on booked revenue will be minor since the earlier payments were not booked as revenue to the extent of excess over tuition for attending students. Additional funding from Larry will be needed over the next few months. Tracy asked if there's any constraint on the school's debt to Larry and his foundation, perhaps board approval should be required for any increase. Ken pointed out that every financial statement includes a balance sheet showing the debt amounts (per the October statement, \$4,184,884 owed to the Garatoni Family Foundation and \$7,690,254 owed to Larry). It was agreed the finance committee (Larry, Tracy and Bruce) should work with Ken on a procedure for formal board approval of additional advances.

I. Opportunity For Comments From Visitors. There were no comments from visitors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Charles Loeser, Assistant Secretary