**April 23, 2014, 6:30 PM**

**5328 Brann Street, Oakland, CA 94619**

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Urban Montessori Charter School**

**Attendance:** Falilah Bilal, Kevin Cuff, Tony Emerson, Daishi Harada, Peter Laub, Dr. Nancy McAfee, Hae Sin Thomas.

**Guests:** Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Hennigan, two parents

6:40 – Mr. Laub performed roll call.

6:42 – Public Comment

No public comment.

6:43 – Appreciations

Mr. Emerson appreciated Ms. Thomas’s work on the benefit.

Ms. Stansbury appreciated everyone who came out.

Ms. Bilal appreciated Mr. Emerson for stepping up his commitment to the board.

6:45 – Approval of the minutes from April 1, 2014.

Mr. Cuff made a motion to approve the minutes for April 1, 2014.

Ms. Bilal seconded the motion.

Vote:

Ms. Bilal – yes

Mr. Cuff -- yes

Mr. Emerson – yes

Mr. Harada – yes

Mr. Laub – yes

Dr. McAfee – yes

Ms. Thomas – yes

6:50 – Approval of Revised Admissions and Lottery policy – Leave of Absence

Ms. Stansbury presented a Leave of Absence policy that provides some accommodations to students who are enrolled, but then require a leave of absence because they move away temporarily. Mr. Harada raised a concern that the policy requires more specificity on how the exemptions align with current exemptions for board members, etc. He suggested that it be revised to clarify that the Leave of Absence policy comes behind the other currently approved preferences/exemptions.

Mr. Harada made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence policy with the necessary clarifications as discussed.

Dr. McAfee seconded the motion.

Vote:

Ms. Bilal – yes

Mr. Cuff -- yes

Mr. Emerson – yes

Mr. Harada – yes

Mr. Laub – yes

Dr. McAfee – yes

Ms. Thomas – yes

7:15 – Approval of the revised 2014-15 Calendar

Ms. Stansbury presented the revised calendar noting a few changes in the teacher professional development days. Mr. Laub asked if it aligned with OUSD.

Dr. McAfee made a motion to approve the revised calendar including moving the spring break to align with OUSD, adding back in Cesar Chavez Day, and changing a few professional development days.

Mr. Cuff seconded the motion.

Vote:

Ms. Bilal – yes

Mr. Cuff -- yes

Mr. Emerson – yes

Mr. Harada – yes

Mr. Laub – yes

Dr. McAfee – yes

Ms. Thomas – yes

7:20 – Transitional Assessment Plan

Ms. Stansbury reviewed the transitional assessment plan presented to the board. She noted that the county suggested simplifying the assessment plan.

Ms. Stansbury noted that some schools are vaguer in the language they use in their assessment targets. Ms. Thomas noted that schools with a diverse population like ours need to be careful that targets address all subgroups, rather than for instance indicating that 75% of the population will meet xyz level, without expecting that 75% of all subgroups will meet proficiency.

Ms. Thomas noted that baseline + measurements will help account for the transition from paper-based assessments to online assessments.

There was a discussion the differences between “one writ” growth and a “one band” growth in NWEA.

Mr. Laub asked if there was a good primer on the NWEA assessment tool that the board could read. Mr. Harada offered to study up on the bands and writs to better explain at the next meeting.

Mr. Harada suggested that we may want to have our own internal measures that may differ and be more rigorous than our external measures.

Mr. Emerson suggested that the impact of this decision was pretty meaningful and may warrant having a separate meeting to approve.

The board decided to table the decision until more information was available.

8:04 – Financial policies

Ms. Stansbury indicated that the auditors did not think there would be finding by adding Ms. Beyah as a signer.

Ms. Thomas made a motion to approve the revised financial policies.

Mr. Harada seconded the motion.

Vote:

Ms. Bilal – yes

Mr. Cuff -- yes

Mr. Emerson – yes

Mr. Harada – yes

Mr. Laub – yes

Dr. McAfee – yes

Ms. Thomas – yes

8:06 – Approval of candidacy of David Castillo for the board

Mr. Emerson gave some background on Mr. Castillo and why he would be good candidate for the board. He noted that Mr. Castillo was formerly a teacher, ran a successful independent charter high school in Oakland, and now is at the CA Charter Association.

Mr. Harada indicated that he felt that Mr. Castillo was very thoughtful.

Ms. Thomas indicated that she is very fond of Mr. Castillo.

Mr. Laub shared that he felt that Mr. Castillo would bring a “no excuses” perspective to the board.

Ms. Bilal made a motion to approve Mr. Castillo to the board.

Mr. Laub seconded the motion.

Vote:

Ms. Bilal – yes

Mr. Cuff -- yes

Mr. Emerson – yes

Mr. Harada – yes

Mr. Laub – yes

Dr. McAfee – yes

Ms. Thomas – yes

8:17 – Executive Director Report

Ms. Stansbury reported that fundraising is better but still behind. She noted that 226 students are currently enrolled.

Laughs for Learning came in about $128K.

Mr. Hennigan reported that no PD had happened since the last meeting. Referrals increased a little from February, but decreased almost 90% from last year.

Ms. Thomas raised a concern that there were as many referrals as there are because it seemed indicative of poor classroom management in some cases. She asked what the plan was to address poor classroom management skills.

Mr. Hennigan reported that the second graders recently took the NWEA assessments.

Ms. Stansbury noted that the last of the three audits was completed. The report was generally positive.

8:39 – Academic Oversight Committee report

Mr. Harada shared the analysis he had done on the student test data on AIMSWeb. He only looked at the data had matched pairs for the two administrations of the tests. He noted that in math, the students weren’t making as much progress as we want.

9:05 – Financial presentation

Mr. Laub presented the financial presentation.

Mr. Weiner reported on the fundraising successes to date including the $115K-$130K raised at the fundraiser.

9:18 – Public portion of the meeting concluded.

9:20 – Closed session: Public Employee Evaluation

10:46 – No reportable action taken in closed session.

10:48 – Meeting adjourned.