

**LAS VEGAS CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE DEAF
MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
NOVEMBER 14, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Perrone, Chrismon, Gorman, Laquidara, Bennett, Rosen, S. Williams, Haines, Bass, Preston, Moran

ABSENT: Solomon, Beardsley, Gigante

VISITORS: J.Williams, Mills, Tony Laquidara (Notary Public)

9:30-10:30 Board members were working with the Notary Public.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:35 am

Introduce Rebekah Mills, our substitute teacher, who is helping today with the filming of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPT 12, 2009: no corrections; approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary's Report: (Bass)

The Nevada Community Foundation paperwork found by Bass and copied to be kept in the hard drive with the Recording Secretary. The originals were given to President Haines for duplication. One set should be kept by the Director and another by the Treasurer.

Secretary Bass went to the IRS and got two change of address forms and gave them to Treasurer Rosen so that she can send in a change the address for our school.

Secretary Bass will be contacting Dell Computers again to try to get our sales tax refunded.

The question was raised about the state having some type of a grant of \$100,000 for new schools. Board member Moran was wondering if that money is still available since we didn't ever get it. Several board members concur with Board Member Moran and recall this amount and issue being discussed. They recall it was related to Department of Education with Tom McCormack's office. President Haines will check the old minutes from 2001

and see if she can find anything about it. Director Bennett will contact Tom McCormack and inquire about this.

Secretary Bass asks that when volunteers go through the old minutes if they would organize them into notebooks by date. Board Member Pat Gorman has offered to come in the LVCSD next week and organize the old minutes for the board.

Treasurer's Report: (Rosen)

As distributed

Several board members had coffee and were discussing the remaining funds of LVCSD. Alarmingly, there is hardly enough to maintain our school to the end of the year. Money is coming from the state and federal government, but truly the school cannot function on that money alone and must rely on major donors and fundraising to keep afloat. Board Member Bass gave a donation from Preston Bass Interpreting Services of \$20,000.00 to keep us afloat to year's end.

Currently, we are at \$26,000.00

Friends of LVCSD: (Perrone)

As distributed. Currently we are at \$13,033.88. We are having fundraisers ongoing to help.

Correspondence: (Trupiano) not present (Haines)

Letters: We got a nice card from Tina who left employment here. She had a baby boy two weeks ago. Mother and baby are doing fine.

SNCODHH asked for \$100.00 for the annual fee for organizational affiliation. LVCSD has been waived from paying the fee for the upcoming year. The Silent Auction Holiday Basket Auction proceeds will go to LVCSD this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (Bennett)

Director Bennett has read minutes of past meetings to better understand our situation and our current status. We have 6 students now. Our 7th student's family is having transportation problems and hasn't returned their child to school. We need a van desperately and this is our #1 priority for this year. We met a man with a Deaf daughter at the Harvest Picnic and he seemed excited about the school. Unfortunately, we don't have his contact information and he hasn't called us. We got an email from a mother who has a deaf daughter who has a cochlear implant and the implant she has isn't working. The child is in a Total Communication school currently. However,

the mother is interested in our school and our ASL classes. She will join the next series of ASL classes when they are offered. We will be inviting her to come to the school for a visit and talk to her about her daughter's educational goals.

Grants: The Englestad Grant for \$1,000,000.00 was denied because our school is too small for them. They want to give money to big institutions, hence they chose to give to the Agassi Schools. They are willing to give us a check for something we need to buy. (note: Secretary Bass called Office Manager, Trupiano and told her to call the Englestad family member and inform her that what our school needs is a van and if she plans to write a check to the school to help buy things we need, that is what we are asking for. Bass instructed Trupiano to call Monday morning)

Sorenson, gave us \$250.00 towards our Open House expenses.

Purple is going to give us \$600.00 soon (this is money owed)

Speedway Charities awarded us a \$3,500.00 grant which is for direct use for the children, not salaries or rent. We will use the money to buy books and a Smartboard.

Upcoming grants: We are still searching for grant possibilities. The grants need be for elementary education. Most grants available are for post secondary education and for adult literacy. LVCS D isn't meeting their specifications. There are a lot of "bad economy" replies upon inquiry for grant funding. Will constantly continue to search for sources.

After the board had its discussion of the funds remaining in the school, Director Bennett followed up with the state again. She was told that LVCS D will get \$5,025.00 per child per year. This money will be divided into 4 quarters for a total of \$35,000.00 total for the year for the 6 children.

We also will get federal money from IDEA. We will get one time only stimulus money in the amount of \$10,398.00; money to CCSD which is distributed to Charter Schools will be \$12,663.00 and from the federal government, Part B IDEA money, for \$9,225.00. \$67,453.00 is the total money we are getting from both the federal and state (not including donations and grants). The board must be aware that it costs \$200,000.00 to operate the school annually. So, you can clearly see that we need to continue to seek funds.

The more students we get, the more money we get and that is why our priority is a van. Many parents tell us they cannot send their children to our school because of the transportation issue.

Secretary Bass explained that she got Car Max grant foundation paperwork and gave it to Office Manager Trupiano; she sent a letter to Carol Levins asking her to donate a van from Creative Kids; Kris Englestad offered to

write a check for what the school needs (Trupaino will call her to get the money to buy a van); Yamagata (Rosen will ask Benny to consider this donation); Moran suggests we consider asking one of the car rental companies to donate one of their used vans. It should be a 15 passenger van. Board Member Chrismon suggests we contact the Lundy Foundation their office is in Greenspun Hall at UNLV (she will assist Director Bennett in contacting them). Board Member Williams suggested we contact the Osmond Family (they have 2 Deaf family members) for funding support. She will assist Director Bennett in making this contact.

False Rumors: The rumor about our school closing in the end of the year is NOT TRUE! Please be responsible in how you discuss the current situation of the schools funds.

ASL Class: Our new class had 15 attendees. We made \$550.00 on enrollment fees.

Nevada Hands and Voices: Their meeting was held on September 24 and had our Director making a presentation about our school. There was a request for a preschool. Currently, we must focus our efforts on the school's success before we open more services or age levels.

Grand Opening: This was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance. We served food (courtesy of Sorenson); sold baked goods; had a silent and live auction and a wonderful evening. Everyone who helped plan the event did a great job. Much thanks to all who participated in making this a success.

Equipment: We needed an LCD projector, digital camera, video camera and smart board. A camera was donated by the Las Vegas Photography Club; Elaine Haines donated the LCD projector; still need a video camera. The Smart Board will be purchased with the grant money from Speedway Children's Charities.

Personnel: We are still accepting applications for a teacher position. We would like to have a new teacher start in January (January 4 is the start of the spring term). Rebekah Mills is a great teacher and she will stay with us as a long term sub but only until December.

Fundraising efforts: One student's mother is very creative for fundraising and has given us several very good ideas. She informed us that she recently contacted Target and Walmart for some donations. Board members requested that Director Bennett ask her if she would like to chair the fundraising committee or at least be a member of the committee.

Walk a Thon: will be soon. One of our mothers is working with Martin Florsheim to plan the event for this for the spring.

The small fundraisers that the Friends of LVCSD are hosting are great; but we need to have large amounts of money incoming to the school. Will also plan a WinterFest and will use one of our clubhouses and have a potluck. If LVCSD wants to take on another project, the Deaf Senior Citizens normally have meals at Cambridge Recreational Center every Thursday. They have offered to allow LVCSD to bring the food for lunch for the seniors. The food would be sold to the Deaf Seniors and the money for LVCSD. The Board members agreed they would do this. Board Member Rosen will organize it.

Publicity: Deaf Life Magazine called and wants to do a follow up story on our school. The article is due tomorrow and it will include pictures of the school and children.

Letter Writing Campaign: Bob Daniels hosted several board members at his home to do a letter writing campaign. Secretary Bass wrote personal letters to her friends and colleagues and the group prepared them for mailing. A form letter was created which is asking for donations. Bob edited the letter and finalized a beautiful copy with a donor form to be enclosed with the letter. People can also just fill out the tear off on the brochure when they want to make a donation. The group prepared and sent out about 200 letters from Secretary Bass and about 150 from the school's list. The Board really appreciates Bob Daniels' help in how to do a letter writing campaign properly (even the proper way to fold the letters). He opened his home to us and really treated us like royalty.

DHHARC – Edina Jambor, the Executive Director of DHHARC, has sent a letter asking us to prepare a letter of support for their application funding with the state. Director Bennett will meet with her on December 9 at the school and will discuss what LVCSD will benefit by giving support. The board and Director Bennett will request a collaborative agreement with DHHARC where they will provide referrals and information to clients about LVCSD. If this is acceptable, then a letter will be written.

Sprint Jim S. _____ spoke with Director Bennett and has expressed a desire to help with donations. She will be meeting with him very soon.

Purple: December 3rd, Ron O'Bray will be visiting LVCSD to see how his foundation may be of help. He has expressed an interest in establishing a Deaf Community Center and somehow incorporate LVCSD in the concept.

Book Donation: Board Member Laquidara donated all her books from her classroom to the school after she stopped working.

Website: The LVCSD website has a new look. A demonstration was shown to the board along with a slide show that is incorporated onto the site.

Meetings: Debra Hegna of CCSD keeps the Director informed of any important meetings that are being held. On December 14 there will be a meeting for all Charter Schools. All board members are invited to attend. Please RSVP right away to Director Bennett by email.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Haines)

New Board: With the new year, we will have a board of a different make up. A list of names has been developed and were listed in the September minutes. President Haines needs to draft a letter of invitation to those individuals asking them if they would like to sit on the board. Any more names are welcome to be added. The names were: Sarah Rosen Strom, Ron O'Bray (of Purple), Bob Daniels, Rosemary Lato (CPA), Marina Koliass (Attorney), Dale Boam (Attorney and Certified Interpreter), Roz Rosen (Director of CSUN's National Center on Deafness); Joyce Linden (retired faculty of Special Education at CSUN); David Polis (Polis Enterprises), Maritn Florshiem (retired Principal of a school for Deaf children in New York), Michelle Schofield, Julie Holiday (mother of one of our students), Jim Skejeveltland (Sprint), Wendy Jordan (owner of Rosemary's Restaurant and teacher at Le Cordon Bleu and an ASL student), Adam Feldman (MGM Mirage spokesperson has Deaf daughter); James O'Brian (Clark County Homeland Security); Patrick Hicks (lawyer with Deaf son); Steven Reidenberg and Chris Donahoue (Sertoma).

Structure: Director Bennett asked the board a question about the difference between the LVCSO; the Friends of LVCSO and the Foundation of LVCSO. The board recommended that she talk to the CPA about this since it was the CPA that advised this structure.

National Charter School Conference: This will be next July in Chicago. We want to send our Director to the conference. Registration needs to be paid by November 25 to get the early bird registration price. The cost of registration is \$300.00. The hotel is \$189.00 per night. President Haines will donate her frequent flyer miles to purchase the ticket for the airfare.

Membership: ASDC Membership: (American Society for Deaf Children): CCSD is a member of it. Our membership would be \$250.00. (Secretary Bass suggests that we check to see if CCSD is already a member and whether our membership included under CCSD as our sponsor). Director Bennett will check.

CEASD: (Council of Educational Administrators of Schools for the Deaf): Our membership would be \$600.00. Again the board asks the question about the rate for Charter Schools or for non profits and asks that Director Bennett

find out how much it would be. (FYI: The new president of CEASD is Ron Stern, Superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf)

Conferences: Deaf Nation Expo will be in Las Vegas next summer. The board asks if it should have a booth. Director Bennett will talk to Joel Barrish about this and how a booth is handled for a school that isn't selling anything and is just information and seeking donations.

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2010:

2010 Board Meetings will be every two months as follows: January 9; March 13; May 8; July 10; September 11 and November 13.

It is expected that the new board will convene in January and the present board will revert to Friends of LVCS D. Any letters of interest or resignation must be addressed to President Haines.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: (Bass)

The Personnel Committee has established the following dates:

Application deadline December 1

Interview candidates by December 7

Job offer by December 10

Start date of January 4

FUNDRAISING: (Bass)

Fuddruckers- First Wednesday of each month from 4-9 pm

Jamba Juice - today from 2-6 pm

Taco party- hosted by Board Member Chrismon was very successful

Winter Fest – being planned by Director Bennett

Yogurt event – details unknown

These events are posted on the SNCODHH website master calendar by Board Member Chrismon. www.deaf拉斯vegasonline.org

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: (Chrismon/Gorman) I move to have LVCS D send Director Bennett to the Charter School Conference.

AMENDMENT: (Bass/ Perrone) That Frequent Flyer miles donated by Elaine Haines be used for the airfare

AMENDMENT AND MAIN MOTION CARRIED

Gifts: If anyone wants to give something to the school then we should ask them to buy Outlook Software. We can then maintain a good calendar and we can build an address book and mailing system.

Office Assistant: Instead of hiring someone, we will rely on volunteers to help with office work (i.e. organize the old minutes into binders). Pat Gorman has offered to do this project and will talk to the Director about a schedule for coming in to help.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:15 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Dec 5 – SNCODHH Holiday Luncheon – money for the auction will go to LVCSD; ask the LVCSD children to do a holiday performance