

**LAS VEGAS CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE DEAF
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
September 12, 2009**

PRESENT: Haines, Gorman, Bass, Preston, Moran, Perrone, Chrismon, Laquidara, Rosen, Williams, Beardsley,

ABSENT: Solomon

VISITORS: Rita/Martin Florsheim, Rebekah Mills, Roy/Taeko Nitta, Kristy Ewalt, Naomi Hughes, Elizabeth Donovan, Colleen McCann, Julie Holliday, Rusty La Rocca, Libby Hathaway,

EMPLOYEES: Cathy Bennett, Jennifer Trupiano

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:55 AM

ROLL CALL AND WELCOME OF VISITORS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY NormaLea Chrismon thanked Secretary Bass for correcting the minutes from last July before distributing them.

MOTION: To approve the minutes as distributed of the July Board meeting.

(Rosen/Gorman) APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT (Bass): All minutes of past meetings can be found on the LVCS D website. They are posted after they have been approved by the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Rosen): Report is as distributed and attached to minutes. We are very concerned about the lack of funds streaming into our accounts. We, of course, have the FRIENDS of LVCS D account funds to help us.

FRIENDS of LVCS D (Perrone): Report is as distributed and attached to minutes. We recently transferred \$25,000.00 to the school treasury.

INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW LVCS D DIRECTOR – CATHY BENNETT

A brief introduction and background: Cathy Bennett was born in Newfoundland, Canada. She attended residential schools and graduated from Gallaudet with a BA in Liberal Arts and in Communication Arts. She taught ASL at Rochester University but still wanted to work with Deaf children. So she earned her MA in Deaf Education and ASL. She then taught in an elementary public school for 4 years. Shortly after that she took a job at the Colorado School for the Deaf as ASL Specialist. This job also involved being a supervisor, a curriculum developer, a parent consultant and work with outreach services. She worked for 10 years and then decided to go to Gallaudet to get ED.S for Leadership

and Administration. Upon completion of the degree she wanted to pursue a new position as an administrator and then applied for the position as LVCS D Director. She is very interested in innovative educational approaches for Deaf children. After the interview, she was offered the job and accepted. She is very glad she did accept and really is enjoying Las VegasExcept for the heat!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bennett):

Cathy Bennett has been on the job just 5 weeks and has spent most of it working out all the kinks and establishing a strong collaboration with CCS D.

Enrollment: We now have 7 enrolled students, possibly an 8th soon and we are working on recruiting a 9th. Our goal is to have 10 students this year. The students are a mix of all the grades.

Curriculum development: This is a priority as we must meet state standards. Thus, we have ordered the Science, Social Studies and Math curriculum which follow Nevada state law. In addition to that, we are adding in the curriculum for Bi-Bi Education and Deaf Education.

Staff Training: There are 5 staff development days during the year and Bennett will be training the staff on Bi-Bi methodology.

Bi-Bi Curriculum: We will include in the curriculum:

Daily ASL Story time

Daily Deaf Study class.

The teacher's aide, Jaime Vitale is setting up a schedule for Deaf community members to come in and tell stories to the children.

Enrichment/Special Time: This includes teaching of Technology, Arts, Drama, and PE

Training meetings: Director Bennett has also been attending various trainings on "Differentiated by Design" which focuses on depth of knowledge for each level as opposed just teaching by grade number. Nevada requires this method be used.

Bennett will develop a school improvement plan (SIP) which is required as well.

Other meetings Bennett attended:

- Curriculum Team meeting in Reno: these meetings focused on each subject and provided text book updates for schools,
- Nevada PEP (Parent Education Program) meeting: and we connected on so many levels. Nevada PEP is very excited about our plans for LVCS D and wants to establish a group consisting of all the entities that provide services to the Deaf in our state (i.e. AG Bell, Hands and Voices, LVCS D, CCS D,) and begin to work toward collaborative goals.
- Sorenson regarding VP installation: We got P3 shortly after school started, but had some issues. Then Sorenson installed 3 VPs for our offices. Bennett contacted a Sorenson supervisor and met with him about what possible donations could be given from Sorenson. After lengthy discussion, they have decided that they will support educational and community related things. So, they decided to donate the following:

Support for the grand opening party on October 22

Website and newsletter support by paying the annual fees

Internet support

Winter Program support (this will be a kids program on Dec 10)

Donate \$500.00 toward expenses

They cannot buy a van, but they will give us money and we can save for the purchase of a van.

In return they want opportunities to publicize their services;

Transportation: We need a van, but we also need to have something in the students' IEPs to require transportation so that CCSD will be able to assist us with bus service for the students. Our van could be used for field trips.

Meals for the Students: The Lit'l Scholar Academy Day Care here provides meals to their children. Office Manager Trupiano has asked if our students can somehow qualify for those meals. If they find a way to enroll our students in the Lit'l Scholar day care, they may be able to qualify for meals. So, Jennifer is trying to figure out a way to get our kids enrolled somehow and then qualify for a lunch from Lit'l Scholar,

ASL parent Class: we plan to establish a class for families and we will find a teacher. As soon as we have that read, we will make a brochure.

Technology needs: We desperately need a digital camera; a video recorder; a LCD projector. We happened to go on Craig's List and met someone on line that said he would donate. So, we went to meet but he never showed up (or so we thought!) While we were waiting, we saw a man who kept laughing and looking at us. We were puzzled by his behavior and then realized that he was laughing at Jennifer's shirt (it showed the irony of Deaf babies not being able to sign while hearing babies can). Jennifer approached him and found out that he was the guy we were waiting to meet! After we talked, he said he would donate the camera to us and that he will call us on Monday!

.Thanks to Jennifer for wearing that t shirt!!!!

LCD we need top of the line model as we will use it alot.

Staffing: Our teacher Tina will be moving to Baltimore at the end of September, so we need a new teacher. We have conducted interviews and will hire a teacher or long term sub soon.

Brochure: We have made a new brochure with new pictures and information.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Haines)

Emails: from CCSD related to the lease of the property. The building survey has been approved. This letter needs to be filed on the property

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT (Trupiano)

Charter School Conference: Trupiano went to Washington DC to attend the Charter Schools National Conference. She extends a heartfelt thank you to the board for sending her. She learned so much.

New Board: One thing that is rather urgent and necessary is the make up of the Governing Board. All present board members should move to service on the Board of the Friends of the Las Vegas Charter School of the Deaf.. The Governing Board should be made up of professionals (such as: lawyers, CPAs, educators, parents, etc.) The present board must be recognized and thanked. The original board is the Dream Team for the school and it is because of the original board that the school is now open. Now that the school is operational, it is time for the board to be made up of professionals instead of the Dream Team. It will cost us money, but we must do that. We know full well that the money is dwindling and we are struggling for funding. We applied for a 1

million dollar grant but we are still seeking other funds. We also have been developing a list of names of appropriate people to invite to be board members. This “Dream Team” (original board) has done a remarkably successful job and we are all very proud of the school’s success.

Professional Fundraiser: Trupiano also learned that Charter Schools need to hire a professional fundraiser, the cost is huge but we need to spend some money to make money. We invited a professional fundraiser and she gave us a proposal which was emailed to the board. We need to decide whether to hire her or not. We will discuss this later.

Board Member Host a Party: It is imperative that each board member take on a responsibility by having a party in their own home and inviting 5 people who have contacts with people who have money. Serve them a light snack and spend the time telling them about the school and about your passion for the school. Then ask them to use their contacts to help obtain donations the school.

Web Help: Trupiano met Shane Winter at the conference. He owns a company called Educational Networks School Site and will help work with our webmaster, Anyta Archer..

Golf Tournament: The Golf Tournament: money will be coming soon from that event.

Hazan Family: Lucille Hazan’s daughter wants to know what happened with the car her family donated to LVCSD after Lucille’s death.. She said that they never received a thank you letter for the donation. Haines will check her files and if not found, she will write a letter right away. The daughter also said that she sent a comment through our website which was never answered.

Philanthropists: Trupiano will contact Susan Westbrook of the Nevada Community Foundation to follow up on the commitment from the donors from past years.

Printing: New business cards were ordered for only \$20.00, thanks to Board Member Perrone’s daughter for her help on this.

PRESIDENTS’ REPORT (Haines)

1. Our new Location: very positive all around
2. President’s administrative duties have been given over to the Director after 8 years!
3. Selection of a new Board for 2110: The new board must consist of professional people vs. the present “dream team”. The new board will need to have training; retreats; etc. The present board will become the board for Friends of LVCSD and will have the opportunity to focus on donations and fundraising. This November will be the last meeting of the present board. Please send Bass any ideas or suggestions for board members. Our Bylaws state that the board must be made up of at least 51% Deaf professionals.
4. We will have some type of recognition of the founding board to be sure their names are known and that they are thanked appropriately.
5. We did hire Deanna Paddack as our bookkeeper to take care of the bills, etc.
6. Nevada Hands and Voices meeting will be on September 23 at 5:30 pm: There was a meeting recently which several of us attended. The person in charge learned that Cathy couldn’t attend and asked Haines to give a short talk about

- LVCS D. To everyone's surprise, President Haines won the door prize. So, she took advantage of the moment and explained briefly about the school.
7. LVCS D's Grand Opening will be on October 22 during the evening from 5:30-8:30 PM : This is definite. Sorenson has committed to that date as well. We need to invite and expect the media to be here. We need to develop the flyer now. Bennett will develop it and Bass will proof read it for her.
 8. Janitorial Service: Cleaning is not included in our rent. We need to hire a cleaning person for daily cleaning. The rent does include weekly mop wax, but we need daily services. We need to get estimates
 9. The affidavit of board member service is due again. We must have things notarized, so Haines will distribute the forms to the board and they must be notarized at the next meeting by Laquidara.
 10. The next board meeting will be November 14.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Bass)

The committee (Bill Moran, Elaine Haines and Caroline Bass) has interviewed 2 teachers and has made its recommendation to Director Bennett. We also need to have Teachers Aides apply as soon as possible.

Our present teacher is leaving at the end of September, so we need to hire either a long terms sub or permanent teacher.

WEBSITE:

Sorenson will pay for our web costs

FUNDRAISING:

We need new ideas!

Fuddruckers? They would love to have us back

Holiday List: Ask people to add LVCS D to their holiday shopping list

Car Dealers: anyone know someone who can make a donation of a van????

Smart Board is badly needed

Other ideas for events:

Caio Caio restaurant – Haines will make contact with the restaurant

Mt Charleston Ski Day-

Oktober fest at Mt. Charleston

Adventure Dome at Circus Circus

Lion King- Bass will take this project on

Go Kart

House Parties: Each board member hosts a small group and talks about the school and our needs and goals and asks their contacts to donate or obtain others to donate to LVCS D.

Rosemary's Restaurant or Le Cordon Bleu for a fundraiser dinner through Wendy Jordan.

Ricardo's Restaurant will offer us 30% of their earnings

Carl's Jr

When talking with restaurants, always ask for 30%-tell them that our kids are worth more than 20% and if the restaurant only will give 20% then tell them thanks, but no thanks!

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Elaine Haines will chair the Grand Opening committee.

MOTION: (Beardsley/ Chrismon) President Haines will chair the committee for the Grand Opening. CARRIED

New Board: Please submit names for new board to Bass as soon as possible. Some names suggested during the meeting are:

David Polis

Martin Florsheim

Julie Holliday (parent)

Michelle Schofield (parent)

Roz Rosen

Joyce Linden

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:55 PM

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 14 AT 9:30 AM AT LVCSD!

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Bass, Secretary