

December 9, 2008
Board of Stewards Regular Meeting
Surface Creek VHCP Office

Stewards: Barb Hulet, Jim Wood, Snub Liles, Kimborlee Etter, Jim Link
Directors: Sara Sharer, Moni Slater, Caryn Braddy, Amy Miller, John Jones
District Rep: John Jones

Call to Order 5:35 p.m.

Review of November 11,2008, Board of Stewards Minutes

Motion to Approve (Kimborlee Etter) Second (Jim Link)

Pass by unanimous consensus

Program Updates:

Delta

- Student Task Force and other learners participated in the Delta Parade of Lights.
- Celebration of Learners took place on December 8, 2008, with great participation from a wide variety of learners.
- Enrollment issues: A fairly substantial number of prospective learners have been coming to the DVHCP from Delta High School. Many are not good candidates for success in the VHCP format. The program is hoping to meet with the local counselors and principals to be sure that they understand what VHCP can offer.
- The Site Development Committee has sent a letter to John McHugh listing their requests with regard to the basketball court retaining wall. They have not received a response yet. John J. said he would try to help with the follow-up, although no major concrete work would probably happen during the winter months.

North Fork

- The program is still investigating options for a possible transfer of property with the owners of the former Warehouse Playhouse in Paonia. The property would require extensive remodeling to meet the "E" rating, and that may be an issue. The program has had an estimate from \$330,000 for a remodel, but John McHugh and Brian Kissner have estimated the cost at nearly twice that. Also at issue, is how the remodel and/or acquisition of property would be financed. John J. agreed to work with Mike McMillan and Terry Kimber to see how the program could possibly get financing without a vote of the people.
- Update on VISTA volunteer – Cedar Keshet: She is working with Hattie Taylor on website development and maintenance, which benefits both the North Fork and Surface Creek program. They are currently fundraising and spreading the news of the "stories project" around the community.

- RtI: Melinda Merriam is working with a small group to develop the North Fork approach to Response to Intervention.
- Enrollment: They are also working with some kids who wanted to transfer from PHS, but the program was maybe not a great fit. The concern is that those kids end up being NF VHCP drop-outs if it doesn't work out in the short time they attend.

Surface Creek

- Post-October 1 enrollment has been steady but not overwhelming. The LAUNCH program is now full, but has been a blessing to the kids who are coming out of the traditional public schools in crisis. Preliminary test results from Scantron show good growth from participants and students/educators alike seem to be doing well.
- The district has given approval for the Resource Consultant workroom to be moved downstairs in the Historic Cedaredge Middle School, freeing up another room upstairs for classroom and meeting space. The program has also arranged with the Senior Citizen's group to use the Senior Room as necessary.
- The program is working on revising the Resource Consultant Evaluation procedure. Preliminary work was completed in December, next meeting will be January 14th.
- The program met with their Parent Accountability Committee and has been discussing how to best the needs of all families in the SC VHCP. Some discussion about the communication avenues, such as e-mail, surveys, and the website.

Coordinating Director

- The Directors will meet once per month, the first Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m. at the Coaltrain Coffee House in Hotchkiss.

VHCP Presentation to School Board

John J. said that the three VHCP offices will probably present to the School Board on January 15th at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular board meeting. Each program will have 15 minutes to discuss their goals, accomplishments, challenges and data regarding student achievement. The School Board will then have ten minutes for questions. Final date to be set after the School Board meeting on December 11, 2008.

School District Audit Issues (VHCP Revolving Account)

The School District's auditor was concerned about the large reimbursement checks that have been going to the Delta VHCP for their revolving account. The auditor felt that there was some potential threat to the district, with regards to appropriate use of funds. Stewards were provided with copies of the minutes from the November School Board meeting. John Jones and Terry Kimber will be meeting with Caryn

Braddy and Trona Denny in the coming week to discuss this issue and develop a plan to address both program and district accounting needs.

Proposed By-Law Change

Motion (Barbara Hulet) Second (Snub Liles)

Per the current By-Laws, any change to the By-Laws must take two meetings. This issue will be voted upon on January 13, 2009. A review of the contract with the district was completed, and it was noted that the By-Laws cannot be materially changed without the consent of the School Board. John J. does not feel that the proposed change will be controversial, but the change will be presented in the January School Board packet.

Proposed Change:

“Section 2. Qualifications of Stewards. Stewards shall be residents of Delta County Joint School District #50J, in Delta, Colorado. Additional qualifications for Stewards may be established, from time to time, by policies established by the Board of Stewards. Stewards shall not be employees of VHC. No more than ~~one~~ two Stewards from each Branch shall be a parent of an enrolled learner. Steward eligibility begins at age 18. VHC Branches are designated as Delta, North Fork and Surface Creek. Branches may change or be established upon approval of the Board of Stewards.”

Update on Attendance Audit

John J. reported that that District still has not received the attendance audit information. They received a phone call from CDE that the document has now gone back to the central audit office. Upon receipt of the specific names and/or issues, the District will work with VHCP to appeal the decision within 30 days.

Meeting Adjourned 7:33 p.m.

Motion (Barbara Hulet) Second (Snub Liles)

Unanimous consensus.