

December 15, 2006

Special Board of Stewards Meeting  
9:00 AM North Fork Office

Meeting is called to order with Dick Nunamaker facilitating.

Dick Nunamaker, Trona Denny, Tracy Gibson, Denise Claire Laverty, Sharon Peterson, Jim Link

VHCP Directors: Anjula Julan, Caryn Braddy, and Sara Sharer

School District personnel: John Jones

Other: Marsha Wyatt, Laddie Livingston, and Rex Stucker

The meeting is started with a check-in from those who attended the school board meeting for the Charter decision. All those in attendance expressed disappointment but not surprise at the decision. The consensus of the group is that there is hope that the VHCP will be able to move forward with either the appeal process or new contract negotiations with the School Board of Education. There is also a feeling of confusion that the School Board and Accountability can show support for the program as a "Contract" school but not as a "Charter" school. It is felt that the VHCP will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure that the program survive and continue to be a viable option for the children of Delta County.

Laddie: Is unsure of the appeal process and what the VHCP would gain by going through an appeal. He states that the VHCP now needs to test the "good faith" of the Board of Education that has publicly stated that it supports the program as it is. He also states that we cannot wait until June to begin new contract negotiations and that process has to take place now. It needs to be clear that the waivers will not be granted as a control measure, the waivers are there to enable the program to provide a true alternative choice to the children of Delta County. It is very important that we immediately resolve the issue of being a legal school; it puts VHCP and the Delta School District in jeopardy to contend that the VHCP is not operating legally.

The District should provide the VHCP with a statement of what they consider as the strengths of the program.

Rex: The VHCP should consider the Charter denial resolution as a "Gift". If the VHCP makes a decision to re-apply for Charter status next year the statements and concerns voiced in the resolution can be resolved and clarified in a new application. We need to ask the Board of Education if they really want a contract school within the Delta County School District. Ask the District administration what it really wants to decide and determine if their requests are something the program can live with. Frame it so that the

DO can help us find out what “IS” possible. The tone needs to be How to make things possible and legal.

Anjula: Wants to determine if we will move forward with the appeal process.

Would contract negotiations be between the Board of Education and the VHCP Board of Stewards?

It is decided that we can file the notice of appeal and leave the actual appeal until closer to the deadline.

Anjula proposes that we pursue two paths. Deliver the notice of appeal to the District office and at the same time pursue affirmation of community and Board of Education support. Keep the appeal as a back up and hold our options open.

Jim: feels we need to clarify our intention.

Claire: Needs to know what we are buying time for?

Discussions of meeting after the first of the year, asking the DO to affirm “WHY” they want us to be a contract school. Find out “Whom” the School Board will enter into a contract agreement with.

If we proceed with an appeal it has to be very thorough, we will only have one chance at the State level.

Caryn: Feels there is a lot of frustration with the School Board acting in “Good Faith”. She feels we should put together a letter asking for affirmation, clarifying “Home School” and making sure that the Board of Education acknowledges that the VHCP is a legal school and not a home based program. If they continue to consider us a Home Based program they put the District at risk of having to refund millions of dollars to the State Department of Education for funding an “illegal” school. We need to enter into discussion about waivers and good faith negotiations with the Board of Education.

Anjula withdraws her proposal.

Claire proposes that we have the Charter denial resolution reviewed by Eric Hall and get his opinion on our chances of success with the appeal process. He should also provide us with an opinion of what a successful appeal would accomplish.

The proposal passes by consensus.

Laddie states that the VHCP should not let funding concerns dictate our decision to appeal the Charter decision.

The VHCP will draft a letter to the Board of Education and ask for a response by January 12, 2007 no later than 5:00 PM.

The notice of intent to appeal has to be to the DO by January 3, 2007. There will be a special Stewards meeting on January 3, 2007, 1:00 PM at the Delta office. The Board of Stewards will determine at this meeting if the VHCP will file the letter of intent with the School District.

It is also stated that we need to obtain a copy of the Charter resolution for approval with conditions that was prepared for the School Board meeting of December 14, 2006. The document was referenced in the public meeting and is therefore a public document. Anjula states that she will request a copy of the document.

Meeting adjourns at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted by: Trona Denny  
Secretary, VHCP Board of Stewards