

Board of Stewards Meeting
May 2, 2007
5:30 PM Surface Creek VISION Office

Stewards in attendance: Rex Stucker, Jim Wood, Snub Liles, Jim Link, Dick Nunamaker, Sharon Peterson, Denise Claire Laverty, Ann Stinson, Barb Hulet, Trona Denny

Directors: Caryn Braddy, Anjula Jalan, Amy Miller

School District personnel: Mike McMillan

Others: Kimborlee Eppers, Jeff Clemens, Caty Johnston, Moni Slater

Start meeting at 5:50 PM and set agenda.

April Steward meeting minutes are approved with name spelling corrections by consensus.

Claire Laverty nominates Caty Johnston as a Steward for the North Fork program. There is no further discussion and the nomination is approved by consensus.

Claire Laverty submitted a verbal resignation from the Board of Stewards which is effective immediately.

Agenda Items:

- 1) Legal Opinions Update.
- 2) Waiver Language Update
- 3) VISION United Front
- 4) Negotiation Team Report
- 5) Paperless Proposal from Delta Program
- 6) Executive session regarding personnel items.

1) Legal Opinions: Jim Link has sent a letter to ACLJ (American Center for Law & Justice and received confirmation that they were in receipt of our inquiry. Rex and an update from the ADF (Alliance Defense Fund) they have gone to their Board for approval to take on our case. They would like to parallel with another CO case that the Department of Justice is prosecuting which is about religious discrimination. Rex will call them to let them know if the Board of Stewards has approved their involvement. Joel Oster is the chief litigator and our main contact with the ADF.

There is discussion regarding cost, we are assured there would be No cost to the VISION HCP. The decision is to have an additional meeting of the BOS to decide if we need to proceed with litigation.

The School District will work with David Price as their attorney for constitutional law and seek opinions from the CU and DU Law schools. There is discussion on how the legal opinions will be solicited and what information Aaron Clay and the School District will be providing about VISION to obtain these legal opinions. They will be forming an opinion on whether Credit can be given if students are using a religious curriculum.

- 2) Negotiating Team Report: There has been no resolution on any issues. There has been discussion about the religious addendum to the MOU. There will be continued discussion at the meeting on May 7th. There is discussion about why there are continued meetings and what CAN be negotiated.

Sharon proposes that we proceed with the ADF preparing a legal opinion for our cause. The Question is asked of Mike McMillan if the program will be accurately represented. He stated that the opinions were being sought by the District's attorneys and the information would be provided by them to the contacts. It is stated that if the Board of Education doesn't seek representation or support for VISION in their legal opinions it could cause more issues for families and learners. There will be no harm in asking ADF to clarify our opinions and concerns. Ann would like to see us speak with Mike and Aaron to see if we can work together.

Sharon states that we lack confidence and feel strongly that things are not going to change. We should make a request to have fair representation and at least get it on record. We need to take the initiative to be involved in the process.

Anjula makes a proposal that we proceed with both options. We should get opinions from the ADF and be proactive in being involved with the District's legal process.

Amy proposes that we contact Aaron Clay about providing information about the program for the legal opinions to be fair. If the District says "NO" to our proposal then we move forward in seeking an independent legal opinion. There is one block to the proposals.

Sharon presents a new proposal since we cannot move forward without BOS approval, so the proposal is that we contact ADF and also contact Aaron Clay about being involved in the District's legal process. There is a question about the DO's timeline and the proposal passes by consensus.

- 3) Waiver Language: Caryn points out the new waivers that were obtained by the School District. It is noted that all replacement policies have now been changed to compliance plans. These changes will take away our ability to create our own policies and will dramatically affect the autonomy of the program.

Mike McMillan states that the changes were made at the suggestion of Jhon Penn.

There is difficulty in moving from replacement policies to compliance plans with no collaborative effort.

- 4) VISION United Front: Snub makes a statement that if we are to be credible the programs need to be united in their efforts, is punctual on the working committees. There will be continued discussion at the Stewards Retreat on these items.
- 5) Paperless: Jeff presents as a courtesy to the BOS and as a request from the School District to get BOS approval for financing a paperless proposal being considered by the Delta program with Self Design in developing and implementing a better means for operation and accountability. He has provided a written proposal for each board member. Surface Creek and North Fork updates on their progress with their own paperless proposals. There are concerns from the North Fork about dramatic drops in enrollment and costs. Mike feels like there are technical issues and is worried about the proposed cost and if the contract is for an extended number of years and not covered under our current budget. He is requesting that VISION do a budget revision and present it to the BOE for approval. The contract with Self Design will also need to be reviewed by the School District's attorney Aaron Clay to make sure there are provisions for any possible budget constraints. Anjula makes a proposal that the final draft is emailed to the Stewards and the vote be done by email. The paperless decision will be obtained by an email vote of the Board of Stewards once the proposal has been finalized with Self Design. Proposal passes by consensus.

There is discussion about the hiring process for the North Fork Director as Anjula Jalan has resigned effective May 30, 2007. Moni states that the North Fork has a process and that the NF voted to create committees for their administrative processes. Claire states that they have approached Dev with a proposal for the Director position. It is questioned whether there was an open hiring process. NF is content with the restructuring that is taking place in their community. Is the structure more economical? NF members state that they will be looking for more volunteer time of projects; the transition is a team effort and is assuring that their Director will not be overloaded with responsibility.

There is discussion about funding the balance owing on the Charter appeal and how to finalize the process of establishing a 501C3 for the corporation.

The Board breaks for Executive Session at 9:00 PM per CRS 24-6-402 (4-7) personnel matters.

Executive session ends at 10:05 PM

Snub proposes we renew Amy Miller's contract for the 2007 – 2008 school year as the Surface Creek Director. Proposal passes by consensus.

Adjourn at 10:06.

Respectfully submitted:

Trona Denny
Secretary Board of Stewards