

## Board of Stewards Meeting 9/26/2006

Stewards Present: Dev Carey, Barb Hulet, Claire Laverty, Trona Denny, Dick Nunamaker, Jim Link.

### Agenda Items:

- 1- Public Comment
- 2- Election of Officers
- 3- Addendum to M.O.U.
- 4- Governance
- 5- Review By-Laws
- 6- Funding Guidelines
- 7- Charter Application

### Public Comment:

Rex Stucker: His interest is to support VISION. He has privately hired an attorney and the attorney has formed a bond with the Alliance Defense Fund. He will be the local contact for this group. He is unwilling to stand by and support that strictly secular is the way things need to be. His purpose is to let VISION know that he is here to be a resource for the program.

Dolly Hill: Representing parents in the VISION program. Dolly presented a letter from parents in the program asking that the Board of Stewards NOT sign the Religious Funding addendum to the M.O.U. presented by the Delta County School Board and prepared by Aaron Clay the School Districts attorney. They feel we are signing a contract with out all the necessary information. She stated that Mr. Stucker had issued a verbal challenge to the addendum at an earlier Delta County School Board meeting. Parents are hopeful that this verbal challenge was accepted in the same manner as the original Religious Funding complaint made to the School District Administration. She stated that a legal brief is being compiled to present as another point of view which differs from the one presented by the Delta County School Board. There is a great deal of parental support in asking that the Board of Stewards not adopt the Religious Funding addendum at this time. The parents would like the board to be fully informed.

Election of Officers: It was requested by the Delta County School Board and District Administration that the Board of Stewards elects officers. We have agreed to that proposal and are holding those elections as of this date 9/26/2006. Dev is facilitating the meeting and has stated that elections will be by majority vote. Officers are to agree to serve for an interim period until a non-conflict board can be seated.

Nominations are as follows:

President: Several nominations were presented, some were declined. Trona moved to elect Dick Nunamaker and Dev Carey as Co-Chairmen for the Board of Stewards. The motion passed by consensus.

Secretary/Scribe: Dick Nunamaker nominated Trona Denny, Trona accepted the nomination. Claire moved to elect Trona as secretary and the motion passed by consensus.

Treasurer: It is noted that the Board does not make the financial decisions for the individual programs. Tracy Gibson nominated Jim Link who clarified the role of Treasure and accepted the nomination. Trona moved to elect Jim Link as treasurer and the motion passed by consensus.

Officers for the Bard of Stewards are now in place.

Governance: Dev stated that the role of the Board of Stewards is to support the Directors of the VISION HCP. It was agreed that the Co-Chairmen are to have consensus from the Board to adopt new policies or make agreements or decisions affecting the program.

A motion was made by Dev to move the Religious Funding addendum to the next issue of comment on the agenda. The motion passed by consensus.

Dev stated that the Board of Stewards was asked by the Delta County School Board to adopt the Religious Funding addendum to the M.O.U. Bob Stechart a member of the Delta County School Board is present and is reiterating his remarks made at the last Delta County School Board work sessions with the Directors from the VISION HCP. He stated that he is talking about ALL religions and that VISION is a school as any other school. The School District holds the waivers for the VISION program which is a non-religious and non-sectarian school. He stated that the M.O.U. restates that fact. He also noted that he was a member of the site-development team that did a review of the program last spring. He feels that the site review team also felt that the VISION program was promoting a religious agenda. He stated that the School Board took action creating the addendum and that they want the Board of Stewards to adopt their addendum. He stated that regardless of whether we adopt the addendum or not, there will be no Religious materials purchased with public funds. He feels that if the Board does not sign the addendum it sends a clear message to the members of VISION that we are not in full support of the School Boards initiative. Mr. Stechart feels the presence of religious items does show that VISION supports religious choice. He feels it violates the original M.O.U. contract with the School District. He stated that there was a BIG misunderstanding in the past and we are acting non-discriminatory in allowing choice. Our view is that we did not break or veer from the original agreement in the M.O.U. but that the interpretation of the agreement has changed. Mr. Stechart stated that the VISION program exists at the discretion of the Delta County School District. He feels that our documentation is not consistent with the state recommendations or the recommendations of the Delta County School Board.

Sara Sharer (new coordinating Director for VISION HCP) Comment to Bob: Participants from the Program have sought independent legal interpretations and feels the School District council feels there is no room for doubt and does not feel we are acting according to state law.

Denise Claire Lavery: A proposal was made at the North Fork VISION that they would abide by the new policy for a three month time frame and review the process. She feels this is a positive offer of working with the School District and not an act of defiance.

Sara: Suggests we present the current addendum with an added statement of the review process.

Dolly: States that there are critical concerns regarding the statements in the addendum regarding hours and credits.

Jeff Clemens: Would like to understand what the “harm” would be in waiting to formally adopt the addendum.

Don Pyle: He feels the harm is maintaining a working relationship with the School District.

Bob: The School Board has adopted the policy and wants the Board of Stewards to adopt the policy as well.

Dev: Feels we should sign and adopt the addendum with the added statement for future review. He feels it leaves us room for renegotiation. He stated that we should minimize the impact this is having on the kids in the program although he feels that the language in the addendum is NOT the best. He would also like to see that religious statement be in the yearly work contract for RC’s rather than an inclusion on every funding request. Discussion about credit hours is very unclear.

Dick: Is in favor of signing the addendum “as is” and trusts that we can revisit the issues as they arise. He feels we need to move on for the good of the students.

Proposals are:

- 1- Revise the addendum without the credit/hours statement.
- 2- Adopt with a clear review statement included.

Neither proposal is passed.

Mike McMillan (Superintendent of Delta Schools) States the intent of accepting credit... We are not a religious school; there will be NO religious funding. Hours of instruction on secular will count. He feels the statement is clear and that religious instruction will not count.

Dev: There is agreement on intent, but we would like to see hours and credits clarified in writing.

Trona proposes we accept the Addendum to the M.O.U.

Claire: We need to be clear before we sign the addendum.

Sara: Leave a statement with a broader definition by the School Board. VISION is reacting to the narrow perception of the addendum.

Bob: There are two new school board members, and they are concerned about “ALL” things in the School District.

Dev: Would like a vote on Trona’s proposal to adopt the M.O.U. addendum with the understanding that the VISION program will work out a clear understanding about hours and credits, Religious funding statement that is now necessary on all funding requests, and that the discussion can be reviewed as needed. The addendum would be contingent on these included items. Those items would be revised on the addendum before formal signing. Signatures would be required by both the Delta County School Board and the Board of Stewards to make the addendum official.

Claire: Proposes we accept this addendum in intent and make the clarifications to be signed off on at the next Board meeting.

Don: Wants to see trust re-built with the School District and states we support and will not fund religious education.

Bob: If we are not comfortable with the agreement “WE” should not sign it.

A committee is formed to make clear statements on the addendum to present at the next Board meeting.

Rex: Feels that the curriculum review process is a “time bomb” and the only way to avoid the blow up is to form a Charter School.

Next agenda item: By-Laws.

Mike McMillan: By-laws and non-profit status should have undergone a review by the School Board and Superintendent prior to being approved.

Anjula: We have completed the process for becoming a formal non-profit with the State of Colorado and are now a legal non-profit with our own Articles of Incorporation.

Funding Guidelines:

Questions rose about Pets and animals. Dick feels that there could be exceptions and we are always open to that concept when the circumstance clearly shows that the request is furthering a Childs learning. There is a proposal to see where we are with adopting the funding guidelines. Claire, Amy and Don need more clarification on some items. There is more discussion about medical and diagnostic services.

Dev feels that an “absolute” list will be impossible, but that our intent is to come as close as we can in involving quality conversations regarding the optimal learning experience. Dev will support as written, modifying sec 1 #5 to section 2 with clarifying questions formed by Sara.

Dick blocked the proposal, want s further discussion about concerns from Mike. Mike feels that section 2 items 1, 2 and 3 will be a problem with the school board. He feels that most of the items in section 2 will be a problem.

Dolly: Supports mileage for outside hour requirements.

Dev: Moves that we accept the proposal and the motion are passed by consensus. Changes are moving Section 2 #1 to Physical Ed. and add semester updates. Program wide funding guidelines are now adopted.

By Laws:

Jim: Should we include the statement regarding non-conflicted Board Members. Suggests possibility of operating according to “Roberts Rules of Order” if consensus cannot be reached and a s a means to interface with the School District. All feel like we should continue this discussion at a later time.

Mike: By-laws need clarifying language on Article IV # 6 and #9.

Sara: It might be possible to look at modified “Roberts Rules” since there are several versions out there.

Questions about new Board members. 2 new Board Members from the Surface Creek Program are approved by consensus. They are Don Pyle and Tracy Gibson.

Program Wide Meetings:

Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October, the meetings will be held at the Western CO Holiness Chapel in Delta. Items of Discussion will be as follows:

Monday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – Governance  
Tuesday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – Learning Plan  
Thursday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – RC Skills

The invitation is open to all individuals program wide.

## Charter Application:

The intent is to have an ideal long term relationship with the Delta County School District. We would like to come to common agreements and procedures and be proactive rather than reactive about changes. There needs to be a clear means of communication. We are committed to ensuring the program exists next year. We are 100% certain that this will happen and we feel the need for the Charter application is to ensure we have all possible options available. We do not feel we are presenting this as a threat to the School District, but a clear option we need to have in place. We potentially see the Charter status as a tool to clarify the roles between the School District and the VISION HCP.

Anjula: The application is almost complete and needs Board approval in order to be submitted to the School District. Dick would like to see us stay with the School District and states that option as his first choice.

Claire: Needs clarification on how the Charter could change the relationship of VISION with the School District.

Anjula: Charter would clarify the individual roles of the School District and VISION

Sara: A School District Charter would be approved by the School District Board of Education, but would allow VISION independence and we would have "safety nets" that are now in place through the State Charter League and operations would be more clearly defined.

Barb: Presents a letter to be included with the Charter application from the parents in the VISION program.

Don: States that the folks in Surface Creek are unclear about how Charter works.

Caryn: Stated that the Site Visit Team suggested/wanted us to take more control of our renewal process. This is not to be believed as a hasty or hurried process and is a way of opening up options for the program.

Tracy: Wants to know if there are concerns for the families in the program.

Anjula: States that a survey was conducted and results from families in the North Fork and Delta programs showed a 90% support rate for the Charter application.

Tracy: States that she did not prioritize the family survey in the Surface Creek program and did not get it completed.

Don: Is not happy about the “Frantic” pace but does understand why necessary to get things is completed.

Clare: Makes the motion to approve submission of the Charter Application.

Don: Feels there are unanswered questions and understands the intent of the process, his main concern is that it will be conceived as a threat or power play by the School District. The timing is unfortunate.

Mike: Absolutely feels this is a Power play by the Program.

The motion to submit the application is approved by consensus.

Update on Surface Creek Director search.

The job posting was submitted to the District Office and networked throughout the District by fax blast. Interviews of candidates will be on Oct 10th. At this time they have received no formal applications only calls of inquiry. The hiring committee will present their choice to the Board of Stewards for approval.

Several committees will meet immediately following the conclusion of this meeting to work on the addendum and cover letter of the Charter application

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Submitted by: Trona Denny  
Secretary of the Board of Stewards