

Career Academy of South Bend, Inc.
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
August 5, 2013

Directors Present: Larry Garatoni, Bruce Greenberg, Rob Staley, Suzanne Wiwi
On Phone: Tracy Graham, Steve Hartz, Vivian Sallie, James Summers
Staff Presentations: Grant Fulton, Tracy Smith
Staff Attending: Yolanda Turner-Smith, Ken Horvath, Charles Loeser

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Bend Career Academy was held at the school, 3801 Crescent Circle, South Bend, beginning at 7:00 am on August 5, 2013.

A. Presentation On Athletic Program: Grant Fulton, SBCA Athletics Director, presented a report on the development of the athletic department/programs [advanced in the agenda to allow Grant to teach a class at 8am]. SBCA has become a member of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (required in order to compete with IHSAA member schools) and has adopted rules meeting IHSAA requirements. The number of students involved in athletic programs has quadrupled, now 34% of the student body. Number of teams has doubled, number of games quintupled, 80% increase in number of coaches. Transportation to away games remains an issue (purchase of passenger vans under consideration). Because basketball & volleyball teams sharing the gym is an issue, SBCA may use a gym at a nearby church. SBCA gym's spectator capacity of slightly under 300 is an issue for some schools for scheduling games (some schools expect to bring 250 supporters to away games). The SBCA sports program has expanded substantially and additional growth is expected this year. The board thanked Grant for his report.

B. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the prior (June 17) meeting were approved.

C. Financial Review. Ken presented the May and June financial statements and bank account detail for June 8 through July 26. There were several substantial events creating non-operating income, including the forgiveness of the Common School Loan debt (roughly 1.293M) in June, receipt of the \$409,000 Public Charter School Program grant, and roughly \$161,000 in catch-up rent from The Apprentice Academy (prior statements hadn't accrued rent due from TAA, using cash basis accounting; TAA did not have funds to pay rent, so in order to avoid accounting issues for SBCA, Larry advanced the \$161,000 to TAA which then paid SBCA & SBCA used the funds as payment towards its debt to Larry). With the elimination of the Common School Loan system, future income statements should be more representative of actual operations. Tuition payments are now being received based on estimated enrollment of 550; this will be adjusted (including retroactively) in September so payments will be according to the enrollment as of the September count day (September 13), then payments starting January will be adjusted to accord to the February count day (plus there is a count day for Special Education in December). The bank detail report and financial statements were approved.

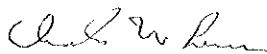
D. Academics Report. Yolanda presented the results of spring End of Course Assessment (ECA) tests for Algebra and English 10 and the fall 2012/spring 2013 Northwest Educational Association (NWEA) tests for reading, language use, and math. As for all Indiana schools, ISTEP scores aren't yet available due to the problems with test administration this spring. The ECA and NWEA scores were disappointing. The school needs to do better next year, and a number of changes are being implemented for that purpose. One change will be expanded use of the Acuity assessment programs: SBCA will now use the full Acuity set (four tests per year) for all students in the relevant grades/classes (for various reasons, largely due to expense, SBCA used Acuity on a very limited basis in 2012-13). Acuity tests predict how students will do on ECA & ISTEP tests, and also provide guidance for teaching to focus on weaknesses in tested areas. Acuity and fall/winter NWEA test results will be analyzed by a team of teachers (such teams are referred to in teaching literature as a "PLC" – "Professional Learning Community") who will meet daily in a room ("data room") dedicated to this purpose. Dian Swoape, SBCA senior math team leader, will lead the PLC. Over the summer, Dian as well as Yolanda and Kim Stanton (SBCA math lab team leader) received training in use of test data to guide teaching; the PLC will provide guidance to other SBCA staff.

Tracy said it seems that the ECA pass rate isn't an accurate representation of the school since there were almost as many students re-taking the Algebra test as first time takers, so the data doesn't reflect students who previously took and passed the test. Yolanda said she did not have the count for how many had previously passed, but she will follow up with that. Bruce said it's surprising that Special Education students scored better than other students, and asked if that's because Special Education students receive more individualized instruction. Yolanda said that's likely, but it must be kept in mind that placement in Special Education often does not reflect cognitive limitations, for example, it can be due to speech problems. Suzanne said that the Special Education approach tends to help build work ethic, and a "learn in their own style" method is often more effective, as detailed in books advocating the "neurodiversity" approach. Rob said there's a fundamental problem with high stakes testing since the kids hate being tested and have little incentive to try hard. He suggested creating a committee to follow up on testing issues, possibly to include non-board members. Yolanda's report was approved.

E. Handbooks. Yolanda presented the proposed Athletics and Instrumental Music handbooks, which were approved.

F. Report On Use Of Obesity Grant. Tracy Smith, SBCA school nurse, gave a presentation on the school's plan for use of funds received for dealing with obesity. The emphasis of the program will be to increase levels of exercise and to use the "Success" classes to promote healthy eating.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.



Charles M. Loeser, Assistant Secretary