## Woodbury Leadership Academy Interim Board of Directors - Minutes Tuesday, May 26, 2015 - 6:00 PM

## Woodbury Leadership Academy – 600 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125

1. Call to Order: Ken Thielman

2. Roll Call of Members: Sarah Tegtmeier

Ken Thielman, Chair Emily Mogren

Sheila Brown, Treasurer (absent) Robyn Carley (late arrival)

Sarah Tegtmeier, Secretary Bharathi Sankararaman (late arrival)

Tiffany Lewis (absent) Sarah Jacobson
Cliff MacDonald Dan Hurley, ex-oficio

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Sarah Tegtmeier Second: Ken Thielman Vote: 5-0-0

Ken Thielman said agenda item 12 e. Motion to approve employee benefits eligibility for part time staff be removed.

- 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: Sarah Jacobson declared that she will not vote on item 10. Consent Agenda for her own contract renewal. Ken Thielman stated that teacher board member Emily Mogren and Sarah Tegtmeier should abstain from voting for their own contract renewals as well.
- 5. Open Forum: (Bharathi Sankararaman and Robyn Carley arrived.)
  - Jaime Brodd brought the idea of beginning the year with a 'state of the union' to the board. She stated this would be a way to educate parents about the school, how teachers differentiate, define the curriculum and explain the difference between a charter and other traditional public schools.
  - Glenn Fager spoke in favor of keeping Ms. Greene as a teacher at Woodbury Leadership Academy. He
    asked all parents present who wish for Ms. Greene to remain teaching at WLA to stand. Mr. Fager
    explained that Ms. Greene always puts the students first and feels she is an exceptional teacher.
  - Melissa Puglisi stated that she is neutral regarding the contract nonrenewal of employees. She asked if
    it is legally sound for parents to ask for this reversal and what impact will this have on Woodbury
    Leadership Academy moving forward. Mrs. Puglisi received two phone calls from parents explaining
    their agenda, and stated that some parents do not feel comfortable stating their opinion on this matter.
    Mrs. Puglisi asked the board to please serve all families and not just the loudest voices.
  - Gretchen White stated that Mr. Hurley and some of the board members do not know her (White). This is a public school, but parents want the community feel and we need to work together. Mrs. White stated WLA is a leadership school and needs to recognize leaders like Ms. Greene.
  - Andrea Mayer-Bruestle stated Ms. Greene helped her daughter focus, citing items such as squeeze balls. She asked the board, as elected officials, to be the voice for families.
  - Kurt Gilbertson felt his son flourished with Ms. Greene. Mr. Gilbertson stated that his son was excited
    about school. If Ms. Greene were not teaching, he would have to reconsider coming. Mr. Gilbertson
    asked what the review process was.
  - Ro Krejci stated Ms. Greene is very involved and is an intricate part of the school. Mrs. Krejci asked
    the board to look at the whole picture and see how Ms. Greene goes above and beyond. She went on to
    ask for a roll call vote of board members. Ro Krejci said she was showing her children how to stand up
    for a cause you believe in.
  - Ian del Rio stated his daughter bloomed with Ms. Greene.
  - Will Hunn stated he noticed how Ms. Greene interacted with the students and they were excited about learning. Mr. Hunn stated that his son is a tough kid, and he loves Ms. Greene. Mr. Hunn asked the board to show the leadership the school is asking the students to show.
  - Tricia Prodoehl stated her child blossomed with Ms. Greene and considers her part of her family. Tricia Prodoehl cited Ms. Greene as one of the reasons that her family is at WLA. Mrs. Prodoehl stated that a leader knows how to work with different people. Losing Ms. Greene would be losing part of what makes our school.

- Cyndi Bluhm stated she had no side on this issue. She has served on boards previously. Mrs. Bluhm
  asked the board to make sure they have all the facts before voting. Mrs. Bluhm stated voting without
  the facts would be irresponsible.
- Nicole Bailey stated Ms. Greene is a phenomenal woman and she was hoping to have her again. Nicole Bailey asked the board to please reconsider.
- Christa Wald stated Ms. Greene has been involved in the charter and is a foundational member. Her daughter has grown leaps and bounds, but feels her daughter will need to be pulled from WLA if Ms. Greene does not remain.
- Abi Omiwade stated she had a positive experience with Ms. Greene, as she challenged her daughter. Abi Omiwade asked that the issue be resolved and don't lose Ms. Greene.
- 6. Approval of meeting minutes from 5/26/15

Moved: Ken Thielman Second: Sarah Jacobson

Vote: 7-0-0

- 7. Chair's Report: Ken Thielman stated the board is in the middle of retreat and has been working hard to draft a more firm mission and vision for Woodbury Leadership Academy.
- 8. Director's Report: Dan Hurley stated that yearbooks are complete and are ready to distribute to students. On May 14th, Math Masters has an in house competition between the 5th and 6th grade students, led by Mrs. Juran and Mrs. Mogren. The Science Fair went great. Mr. Hurley thanked Mrs. Juran and Mrs. Tegtmeier for their hard work in planning and organizing. He thanked families and students for their hard work and participation. The Science Fair will be in next week's copy of the Woodbury Bulletin. Mr. Hurley reported that MAP testing is complete, parents are able to see the results via TIES on June 8th with report cards. The students did a great job!

Dan Hurley reported that after meeting with Judith Darling and Crosswinds, WLA is all set to remain at the current facility, with additional space, for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Hurley is completing the final hiring and staff are writing goals for their PLCs next year. Mr. Hurley thanked the board for working to create the objectives in the strategic plan.

- 9. Committee Reports:
  - a. Finance / Budget Review of April financial statements and supplementary information (see April 2015 Financial Statements).
- b. Marketing / Enrollment: Dan Hurley reported that the Marketing Committee is working to decide what to do with the left over items from the Woodbury Expo. Mr. Hurley has completed more tours of the school with potential families. There are currently 205 students enrolled at WLA, there will be 295 enrolled for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Hurley reported the waiting list has 146 students.
- c. Policy: Sarah Jacobson reported the Policy Committee continues to work on the Director Evaluation form and would like board feedback in creating this document.
- d. Building Facilities: Ken Thielman reported KW realtors continue to look for a facility and we may need to widen the search. KW has relayed there has been resistance on the part of city government to make a property tax exempt. Mr. Thielman reported the committee will meet after the board retreat.
- 10. Consent Agenda: Approve renewal of current staff contracts (non-board members). Approve new staff contracts for 2015-16.

Moved by: Ken Thielman

Second: Bharathi Sankararaman

Vote: 7-0-0

## 11. Old Business

a. Discussion of director's evaluation process and director job description: Sarah Jacobson provided the board with a director job description, board review form and employee survey for the board to look over and review prior to the next meeting.

## 12. New Business:

a. Motion to approve renewal of contracts for teacher board members:

Sarah Tegtmeier

Moved by: Sarah Jacobson Second: Cliff MacDonald Vote: 6-0-1

(Sarah Tegtmeier abstained)

Emily Mogren

Moved by: Ken Thielman Second: Bharathi Sankararanman Vote: 6-0-1

(Emily Mogren abstained)

Sarah Jacobson

Moved by: Robyn Carley Second: Cliff MacDonald Vote: 6-0-1

(Sarah Jacobson abstained)

b. Motion to approve Fund Balance Policy

Moved by: Cliff MacDonald Second: Emily Mogren Vote: 6-1-0 (Ken Thielman voted no)

c. Motion to approve contract renewal with TIES for Synergy Student Information System.

Moved by: Emily Mogren Second: Robyn Carley Vote: 7-0-0

Dan Hurley reported TIES was bought out by Synergy. After talks, Mr. Hurley believes

Synergy will be a better system than TIES. Sarah Jacobson asked if WLA would need to pay
the first year fee. Mr. Hurley stated he is looking for further clarification regarding the first
year fee. Ken Thielman asked if the company ensured a smooth transition. Dan Hurley stated
yes and that the office staff have begun using the system and both like it.

- d. Motion to appoint Sarah Tegtmeier as new board vice chair
   Moved by: Robyn Carley
   Second: Bharathi Sankararaman
   Vote: 7-0-0
   Ken Thielman stated he approached Sarah Tegtmeier about serving as the board Vice Chair, she seemed willing and eager to do so.
- e. Preliminary discussion of uniform policy for middle school students: Sarah Jacobson stated the Policy Committee is drafting the Middle School uniform policy. Ms. Jacobson asked if the board would like any differences to the uniform for Middle School students. Sarah Tegtmeier stated the policy could be drafted to add additional items like black or navy bottoms. Bharathi Sankararaman asked for clarification if these changes would be limited to just Middle School? Robyn Carley suggested getting input from students and parents. Emily Mogren supported the idea of giving students a say in the uniform.

Dan Hurley raised the point that some Kindergarten families struggle with the dirty uniforms and could other options be added to other grades as well.

Cliff MacDonald stated he feels we should add to, not change, the uniform policy for Middle School and asked if the school could work with a vendor to obtain a discounted rate for embroidery.

The Middle School uniform policy will be brought to the board for approval at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

- f. Motion to approve meeting dates for the board of directors for June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 27, 2015.

  Moved by: Ken Thielman Second: Cliff MacDonald Vote: 7-0-0

  Ken Thielman asked if dates for the summer months had been set. Sarah Tegtmeier stated that when creating the 2015-2016 school calendar, she had added board meeting dates for the upcoming school year. The 2015-16 calendar was approved by the board and posted on the website. Mrs. Tegtmeier asked if this is how the board wished to proceed. Ken Thielman stated, he would have to think on that one.
- g. Discussion of non-renewed teacher contracts.

Ken Thielman stated this was not a snap decision, Human Resources was present in talks with Ms. Greene regarding the decision to not renew her contract. Mr. Thielman stated this is not a popularity contest, and a charter school needs parent involvement to succeed. Mr. Thielman cautioned the WLA community to be careful when gathering support for a cause, as others may not share the same point of view or experience. Mr. Thielman stated he cannot share all

the details of the meeting, and those from the board with further questions should speak with Mr. Hurley directly.

Emily Mogren stated it is important to listen to parents, teacher and kids. Ms. Greene is an asset to the school, she is a go-getter who goes above and beyond. Mrs. Mogren feels it is important for Ms. Greene to be here at WLA.

Sarah Jacobson stated Ms. Greene has been working hard to get Woodbury Leadership Academy up and running from the beginning. Ms. Jacobson believes Ms. Greene has so much to give the school, she is a passionate person who is an asset to the school.

Robyn Carley stated she feels others were given an entire year to show improvements or make corrections, she feels Ms. Greene should be allowed to do the same.

Cliff MacDonald stated a clear mission and vision needs to be developed by the board. He questioned if clear expectations were not met. Mr. MacDonald stated there is a lot of ambiguity in the first year, and felt Ms. Greene should be allowed to be here next year.

Ken Thielman stated that clear expectations were given to Ms. Greene.

Robyn Carley stated she has a public school background and in her gut if feels wrong to get rid of a supportive teacher.

Ken Thielman stated this is a charter school and employment is at will.

Motion to overturn the director decision and reinstate Ms. Greene
Moved by: Emily Mogren Second: Sarah Jacobson
(Ken Thielman voted no, Sarah Tegtmeier abstained.)

Vote: 5-1-1

- 13. Future Agenda Items:
  - Part-Time employee benefits
  - Enrollment policy for students under age 5 in Kindergarten
  - Maggie Greene's contract
  - Middle School uniform policy
- 14. Date and Time of Next Board Meeting: June 23, 2015 – 6:00 PM
- 15. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Sarah Jacobson Second: Cliff MacDonald Vote: 7-0-0