

## MINUTES

Learning Center Foundation of South Cobb, Inc.  
Imagine International Academy of Mableton  
April 12, 2011, 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:43 pm.

Members present:

Sarah Keyton, Joslyn Jackson, Troy Johnson, John Bailey, Alana Nichols

### **Pledge**

**Adoption of the Agenda:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Sarah Keyton, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Alana Nichols

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Troy Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Bailey

### **Approval of Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Conflict of Interest Policy was approved. 1<sup>st</sup> – Alana Nichols, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Troy Johnson. Ms Jackson talked about the Conflict of Interest Policy that the Board members signed. The Conflict of Interest Policy will be made available.

### **Principal's Report**

Dr. Barber talked about the CRCT testing starting today. He also stated that the parents are pleased with the CRCT tutorial that took place before the testing. They utilized an Accelerated Learning Program to provide the tutorial. This included working on Saturdays and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the Spring Break. Right now Varner, Clarkdale, and Mableton are the only schools out performing Imagine Mableton.

We currently have 537 students enrolled at this time.

The Lunch Program and BASP are improving. The Middle school building has been painted and the floors waxed.

Dr. Barber mentioned that the enrollment number for 2011-2012 school year is close to 650 students. The goal is 800 students.

### **IMAC Report**

Brigitte Thompson reported that IMAC is working on a Fundraiser centered around Mother's Day.

IMAC is still selling chicken biscuits on Friday mornings (not during testing). Some of the funds will be used to help with Kindergarten, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduations. We will also provide some type of financial assistance for Field Day.

### **Charter Renewal Update**

a. School Management Update

A letter of Intent was mailed to the Commission stating that we are applying for a new Charter.

We are also intending to phase out Imagine. Waiting on response back from Imagine.

b. Charter School USA

All of the responses to the parent questions have been sent out. The Charter School USA Executives, including the CEO, will be in town on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. A meeting time is being established to allow parents to meet with them for a follow-up to the original meeting and responses. To provide for adequate accommodations for this roundtable discussions as well as to make sure that the meeting is effective, we need to limit the number of people that attend this meeting. Conference call is being scheduled for the same day.

c. Independent, Locally Managed

With the Independent Model, total control of the school is local. There is no outside influence.

Managing the school's budget and operation of the school would be the major difference. We could have fundraisers to help with the budget.

Ms. Jackson stated that one of the things that she has noticed with EMOs is that we give them all of the hiring/firing authority. Whenever there is a conflict with any EMO, it is hard to do anything.

Curriculum

Ms. Huguley and Ms. Livingston are looking at a curriculum that is Math, Science, and Technology driven. STC is a research based system. It gives students a hands-on experience. This program is supported by the Smithsonian Institute.

They are also looking at another curriculum that is based on Math literacy. Rethinking how we teach math is a good resource. Want students to see Math in everything and not as an isolated subject. Students would do 90 minutes of math. Half of the time would be instruction and the other ½ would be application.

Students would do Science for 60 minutes. Looking for Middle School teachers that are certified Math and Science teachers. Middle school teachers would coach the lower grades. Want to do an extended Day. Extend the day 1 hour to add enrichment.

Want to go back to look at Character Education. Character Education should reduce discipline problems to almost zero (0).

Want to do a book club which leads back to math literacy. Want to build in a "Lets get ready for the Day" time in the morning before school starts.

There will be Staff Development for the teachers.

Parent Input/ Voting/ Committees

There is a Parent/Stakeholder letter going out. At the end of the letter is a survey response sheet that needs to be returned to the school. Want the Parent/Stakeholder/Community working together to save Mableton.

Ms. Jackson spoke about the reason the Board is moving away from Imagine. She stated that the County and State basically is not willing to renew the Charter if Imagine is the Managing Company.

In an Independent Model all of the decisions makers are in the building. The Board and the parents make the decisions as to the leaders of the school.

The Board would manage the school with input from the parents. The SAC (IMAC) will step up and assume the role that the Charter intended it to be. SAC is an extended management of the Governing Board.

### **Charter Renewal Status Report**

A lot of progress has been made on the Charter. We have only 19 days to submit our Charter to Cobb County.

Over the weekend the Board will sit down and go over the responses of the parents. The results will be made public. Smyrna is also having a working session on Saturday at 2:00 pm.

If Charter USA is chosen, IB will be phased out.

#### Financing

Have had conversations with a company that would issue Bonds. Charter Schools USA has said that they will not take a fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

We will need to look at the efficiency of the school. We will need to modify some things. We will also do fundraising.

501 (c) (3) has been sent in and is well on the way.

Next Board meeting will be Monday April 18, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** 8:05 pm Motioned by Troy Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sarah Keyton

Minutes provided by Brigette Thompson