

Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill, Inc.
May 25, 2010 Governing Council Minutes

Attendees: (Councilors) Edward Barlow, Kathleen Butler, Jane Carroll, Kathleen Graham, Ellen Hollister, Susan Johns, Diana Lamenzo, Rev. Gary Miller, Sister Mary Ellen Murphy, Edmund Nocera, Sister Fay O'Brien, Margie Palmeri, Carlota Schechter, Wyrot Ward; (CREC Representatives) Dina Crowl, Denise Gallucci, Peggy Sampson, Don Walsh, Principal Andrea Einhorn.

- I. Chair Kathleen Butler called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
- II. Reflections – Reverend Gary Miller’s reflection was framed by two biblical passages, Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, Verses 1-8 and I Corinthians Chapter 13. The topic of the first scripture reading is a season for everything and the second focuses on the gift of love. Councilors were asked to allow these messages to marinate so that we remember that we are blessed with God’s presence in our midst through all times.
- III. Public Comment-there was no public comment.
- IV. Approval of Minutes-Wyrot Ward moved that the April 2010 minutes be approved. Sister Fay O’Brien seconded the motion and it was carried.
- V. Principal’s Report-Andrea Einhorn reported that most of the academic assessments for the children are completed and results will be reported at the June meeting. She outlined upcoming field trips which included a trip to Beardsley Zoo won by Diana Lamenzo’ kindergarten class. The children won the trip by raising \$500 for the Pennies for Cancer Fund. Andrea invited council members to attend a field day for the entire school held on May 28. The projected enrollment for 2010-2011 is 242 which include two classes of 2nd grade.
- VI. Financial Report and 2010-2011 Budget:
 - a. Ellen Hollister reported that the majority of the income is in and the projected deficit for this school year is \$148,506. Questions on the 2009-2010 budget and deficit were answered by Don Walsh and Peggy Sampson. They addressed the unanticipated rent cost (per Don Walsh, it stands up to other similar leases and is a relatively attractive rent) and the cost of healthcare (the cost is amortized among all CREC employees.)
 - b. Denise Gallucci provided a current status report of per pupil income and expenditure. She also submitted a comparative report between the funding

sources for charter schools and magnet schools. She noted that magnet schools are high-quality educational opportunities that aim to reduce racial, ethnic and socio-economic isolation of students through innovative education programs. The purpose of her report was to support CREC's recommendation to convert the existing charter school to a magnet school. She began the discussion by pointing out that the average per pupil expenditure for 2009-2010 is \$13,810 and \$13,127 for 2010-2011. The charter funding is \$9,300 per pupil and is inclusive of the federal start up grant of \$745 per pupil. According to CREC's contacts in the General Assembly, this figure will remain the same for the next school year. She noted that there will be an increased deficit in next year's budget unless we opted to make cuts in personnel and services to children. Ms. Gallucci pointed out that the magnet school is a more fiscally viable option. The funding grant is \$10,443 per pupil with an additional \$2,000 allocated for transportation costs per student. In addition, the school districts (including Hartford) pay \$3,740 in tuition per pupil. (School districts do not pay a per pupil fee for charter schools). Magnet schools are also eligible for school construction grants that include the purchase and renovation of facilities for the school. With the existing charter school deficit and projected 2010-2011 deficit of \$175,287, CREC recommends the conversion to a magnet school. They have contacted the State Department of Education and the Commissioner has agreed to the conversion. If the conversion occurs, the 2010-2011 would be a transition year and CREC would apply for a school construction grant by June 30, 2010. The Governing Council would become an Advisory Council once it has been converted to a magnet. CREC agreed to absorb this year's deficit and the deficit during the transition year to a magnet school. Chair Kathleen Butler closed the session for further discussion among the councilors.

VII. Closed Session Discussion. Members discussed the two choices: to remain a charter school or to convert to a magnet school. All members present gave a verbal statement supporting the conversion of the charter school to a magnet school governing structure. Further discussion will occur at the Executive Committee meeting on June 1 and a motion will be entertained in the near future.

VIII. Adjournment-the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kathleen Graham, Secretary

Kathleen Butler, Chairwoman