

## SPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9.28.10

### Minutes

6.24. Minutes –accepted as submitted

8.11 Minutes – accepted as submitted

9.1 – get missing names to fill out minutes; then accepted as submitted

### Financial Report

Purchases – July/August 2010: Clarifications provided – accepted as submitted

Budget – sent items highlighted in green to show non-restricted funds: \$188 revised budget column; flux in allocation and charter school; facilities, salaries, instruction/supplies updated. Unrestricted funds are for M&O. Students fees – had a higher amount of fee waivers. Past 10-12; this year at 32 – about 18%. Highland's ranges between 32-52%. Monies are based on #s as of October 1 each year.

SL School District Lease – course cost only went up \$1. Facilities portion: pay for square footage for SPA students taking highland courses; 13,867 sf SPA is using – approx 4,300 more sf than last year. Clarification of costs. Increase by 40 students and 4,000 sf this year. This is currently being reviewed on the district level. This should be back by next board meeting for approval. Billed for space based on how much it is used per day (1 period/8 periods).

Utah Association of Public Charter Schools – Get same benefits w/o membership – legislation, support. Join to support the organization v. what the money can be used for. Going through a lot of changes this year. Information about this has hit the news. Al Church – Ames - Missy talked to him. Felt benefit is the legislation efforts for charter schools – lobbyists. Janet Roberts sits on the leg. Committee (she is with the district). Coming up: change of how charter schools are financed. No list of benefits currently exists. Can get on their legislative alerts, newsletters. Very active in the legislation. Where do they align with SPA's position? The organization is split, so their positions are unclear. Transparency of money has been difficult. Membership due soon – September 30. Been around since almost inception of charter board. Charter Board is dissolved so lost this voice. Have some strong, powerful legislators supporting charters.

**ACTION ITEM:** Robyn Hough to provide more information for next board meeting.

Flexible Spending – Missy – ½ time with SPA/Highland. Losses pre-tax benefit - \$12.25/mo – buy up for higher insurance.

MOTION: Move – Robyn Hough; second – Shawn Turner– approve flexible spending tax credit to adjust in the amount of \$12.25. Unanimous vote.

## Administration

Wendy Turner – fabulous – dance. Bethany is very excited about her. Masters from NYU. Martha Graham certificate from NYU. Was a Virginia Tanner students.

Theatre I – Deana Paden. Background is musical theatre – want to open up this area more. Working well with Jared and Carrie.

Highland/Paul allowed Bethany to use the stage.

Kids seem to like the teachers. Classes are split and doing well. It was difficult on the kids to have schedules shredded with classes being split. 21, 25, 11 – theatre I class splits. 18, 12 – modern I.

Needs to look at splitting tap/jazz second semester. She has over 25 students. Having higher level students help lower level students; arrives 20 minutes early to work with higher level students –more advanced instruction. The teacher (Leah) is a big draw for the students. Moves to South Balcony for tap portion of class – they don't leap so no safety issue.

If enrollment stays at 188, then will keep teachers currently hired for the higher enrollment.

Most teachers are coming out of private studios, so they cannot give the attention they are used to – this is a public school. Conversely, SPA must give as much individualized attention as possible as this is a performing arts school.

NOTE: board members are welcome to come to classes – stop in and Debbie will take you.

Carrie is doing great. Missy and Carrie have an ops meeting every week.

PODS were at Highland during the retrofit. Right now there is no meter; possibly conduit. This is being checked – request to district or have Blue Stakes come look.

## School Growth and Facility Expansion

Jim's handout

- How does funds raised impact the cost of the building / rents paid? Would you want it to go towards the building or the new school? Janet can help us explore that.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Need to ask her to come next meeting.
- With cash flow this year, none of these are feasible.
- Cap school at 150 and not grow? Can stay at Highland this way.
- Every time add kids, also have to pay salaries, benefits, etc.
- Fresh/soph – 5 out of 8 are locked up in required classes; junior/senior schedules start loosening up
- Capping is not going to help us. Highland asks every year when are we getting our building.
- Huge benefit for SPA to be attached to the district.
- Highland agreed b/c they would be entire academic support; SPA must have separate facility for all performing arts.
- Description of Roslyn's space; can we survive long enough
- Could Roslyn space be shared with another entity? To help offset costs - Horizonte

- Is it feasible to transport the kids back and forth?
  - 9/10 periods – 2:30 - 4
  - All SPA in highland in morning; SPA classes in afternoon
    - Cut out Highland students with that schedule
  - Kids drive?
  - Highland wouldn't be able to do the scheduling with SPA as they do now
- Need to change paradigm
  - With parents, students, teachers
- Move teacher instead of students
- Keep SPA classes that are cooperative (stage craft, etc.)
- Van v. bus (15 passenger must have bus driver license)
- SPA academic classes for frosh / soph – freshman lit, basic algebra
- SPA has flexibility b/c don't have to align for hire/fire policies – Ames has done this – have to have highly qualified or ARL
- Teacher productivity: if teacher wants to take extra class for extra pay; nice way to add sections; Paul was positive about this.
- Start at 10; end at 6; rehearsals in the morning
- Parents are more flexible b/c they have higher expectations, get involved, sacrificed
  - We have Ogden commuters; summit, tooele, Utah county commuters
- Recommend small group to meet with Janet: Jim, Missy, Shawn, Debbie, Carrie; bring some options
- Get a more detailed, more realistic amortization schedule
- What sacrifices are we willing to make? Smaller classes? More pay for teachers? Schedule paradigm shift
- How does the board justify a bond payback on a building that is going to have 40+ year life?
- If build portable, then have a few years of payments, then done; no lease payments. Can still use it.
- Even held with chaos and challenge, we are at 188, starting with 195.
- Surveys: a lot of people come b/c of people who are already at spa/know someone there
- Kristi to ask Janet – an hour; small group – Jim, Shawn, Debbie, Carrie
- Short term: get to Rosslyn and growing the student body
- Figure out goal and then figure out steps to get there
- Have 19 employees which are impacted; have classes that were not in the original plan (tap).
- Need to keep up front that we ARE a public school; not a private school. Ideally, it could be a public school that has an endowment, wait list, smaller classes. This is part of growth.
- Admin goal: keep department heads full time w/benefits; the rest part time.
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## Arts Council

Getting schooled at UNV – then will work on this.

## SPA Parent Organization

John is getting some training which will take a few months. He will then have a better idea of where to go with this organization.

### **Fund Raising & Sponsors**

Mary Lee – head of fund raising. Met with Carrie, Jared, Bethany, Stan. 1<sup>st</sup> thing: draft a letter to go out to every SPA family as an ask. Need Spa fund raisers – big. Hit alumni. Has a list of interested people to help. Met with teachers – what specifically do you need/want. Going to ask for specifics – get better results than a general ask.

Chuck brought up a Carol-a-thon as a way to serve the community and bring in funds for the students.

Carrie is good at finding grants. John is good at writing. SLC writing center & Utah Nonprofits are great at helping getting good writing in a grant proposal. Writing center – walk in help / free. UNA – one day class.

One night – traditional gala. March 26, 2011 – not what is currently scheduled. SPA Carolathon. Chuck will head this up. Community service credits. Nothing on Dec. 14 – already scheduled.

### **Mission Statement & Strategic Plan**

Missy ,Carrie and Liz are working on a mission statement and hope to have a mission statement by next board meeting.