

**COMPASS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2007**

Public Session

This session was held for the purpose of conducting school business. The board met at Compass Public Charter School, 2511 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, Idaho.

1. Opening of Meeting

- a. Call Meeting to Order: At 6:07 PM, Chairman Barrus called the meeting to order.
- b. Roll Call: The clerk took the roll. Members present were, Chairman Barrus, Director Dison, Director Simmons, Director Zito and Director Adolf.
- c. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Barrus asked Administrator Fearey to lead the pledge.
- d. Approval of Agenda: Chairman Barrus asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Director Dison *moved to approve the agenda by unanimous consent*. Chairman Barrus declared the agenda approved without objection.
- e. Persons wishing to speak to an Agenda Item: Chairman Barrus asked if there were any persons signed in to speak to an agenda item. The clerk reported that the following people had signed in to speak to the Middle School Expansion item:
 - a. Susan Luke
 - b. Jodi Schultz
 - c. Ric Jacob
 - d. Ann Tschikof
 - e. Troy Schultz
 - f. Jon Stadlander
 - g. Beth Rasmussen
- f. Persons wishing to speak to a Non-Agenda Item: Chairman Barrus asked if there were any persons signed in to speak to a non-agenda item. The clerk reported that there were none.

2. New Business

- a. **Workshop on Middle School Expansion:** Chairman Barrus asked Administrator Trudeau to present the findings of the High School Committee. Administrator Trudeau acknowledged the board's apprehension to approve the entire expansion project, but explained that there would be no point in proceeding if the board did not buy into the vision of the committee. She stated that even if the board gave approval to proceed, it would not mean that the project would take place. The administrators identified Administrator Trudeau, Administrator Fearey, Mr. Adolf, Ms. Simmons, Mr. Jacob, Ms. Tschikof and Mrs. Luke as members of the High School Committee. The following comments were made on the topic of **attrition**:
 - From Mr. Fearey- The last 8th grade class had 27 of the 33 students return for 9th grade. There were a few students who transferred into Compass, and then the class lost a few more students.
 - From Mr. Jacob- it is more cost effective and compassionate to train students from 6th grade on. It is difficult for students to adjust to the rigors of CPCHS when transferring in, therefore the attrition rates will tend to be higher.
 - From Ms. Luke- adding new students to the 6th grade allows them to live out the Harbor Method during the critical middle school years.
 - From Ms. Tschikof- blending a class of new and returning students took about 2 weeks at the 6th grade level and attrition was very low. There were some academic issues to resolve.
 - From Mr. Adolf- When high school students leave during the upper grades, they may not be replaced, making it important to start with a full class.

- From Ms. Simmons-Sixth graders may adjust to changes faster and more completely than high school students.
- From Administrator Trudeau-There will always be some attrition because charter is a choice.

The following comments were made on the topic of **facilities**:

- From Administrator Trudeau-There are a few possibilities for expansion. A three-classroom wing could be added to the east of the office, creating a courtyard for the playground. The covered drive-through area could be enclosed to make an office space for the high school. The patio on the high school side could be covered to create a classroom. It may be possible to add a classroom on the west side of the building if there are not firewall issues. Connecting the main building and gym might provide room for a classroom or two. To make these changes, there would be a loss of 6 parking spaces. The landlord is aware of the plan. He thinks the building purchase could be possible by the end of the school year.
- From Chairman Barrus- Can the playground improvements become a part of the remodel plans? The grant writing committee is focusing on the playground.
- From Director Dison- Remodel plans should include playground improvements as a priority.
- From Administrator Trudeau -Enclosing and covering the canal may alleviate playground concerns. There is a parent looking into this possibility.
- From Chris Jensen- Will adding classes overload the shared spaces, such as the computer lab and lunchroom?
- From Administrator Trudeau- Careful scheduling can reduce overcrowding of shared space.
- From Jodi Schultz- Will the science lab and music room be put on hold?
- From Jim Allen-Has a complete architectural plan been created? Suggested that board have a study done.
- From Chairman Barrus- when the current architectural plan was done the only anticipated expansion was the 10th through 12th grades. Some of the proposed changes will need to be done in order to make space for those classes.
- From Troy Schultz- Can the current lease agreement be expanded to include a remodel? Is the current investor the only financing option?
- From Administrator Trudeau- It appears that the current lease agreement could be expanded to include another remodel, however, the bottom line is unclear until the possibility is investigated further. To purchase the building with the current agreement would postpone the remodel a couple years.
- From Tammi Hall- Will there be a point when the high school will not remain open if attrition rate is too high?
- From Administrator Trudeau- It is in the realm of possibility, but this expansion plan is being offered as a way of keeping that from happening.
- From Dan Kusuba- Wanted to verify his understanding of the plan, which is to double 6th, 7th, and 8th grades so that they can feed enough students into the high school to keep it viable. The answer was yes.
- From Director Zito- It is possible that the high school could end up with 172 students. Does this plan have room for them?
- From Administrator Trudeau-With apprenticeships, the division of the auditorium and a few creative possibilities, room could be found.

The following comments were made on the topic of **staffing**:

- From Administrator Trudeau- for the 2008-2009 school year, the only additional staff would be a sixth grade teacher. There is flexibility in the specials schedule that would allow for one more class. In the lunchroom, the schedule could be tightened to allow for the extra students.
- From Administrator Trudeau- some concern has been voiced about a competition between teachers. The administrator will be assigning students to classes. Parents will not be able to choose one teacher over the other.
- From Ms. Allen- Was concerned that the proposed plan would not be able to fill the high school to capacity soon enough.
- From Administrator Trudeau- she is not willing to compromise the culture of the middle school grades by bringing in a new class of 8th graders.

- From Mr. Stadlander- The current class of 8th graders was informally polled to see what their intentions were. Twenty-seven plan to stay for high school, 1 said they would be leaving, and 5 were undecided.
- From Beth Rasmussen- Will the 6th grade classes be mixed up for 7th grade? The answer was no.
- From Kelly Lloyd- Will Mr. Pinkerman move up to 7th grade with the class? The answer was no. Ms. Lloyd also said that she would like to see more training for teachers who are new to the Harbor Method.

The following comments were made on the topic of **budgeting**:

- From Administrator Trudeau- There is some concern that if we add students it would change the formula by which we receive funds. The only way that would happen is if kindergarten through sixth exceeds the 300 student limit.

The following comments were made on the topic of **admission and lottery**:

- From Administrator Trudeau- there is some concern that this plan may cause problems with admissions/lottery process. Compass will operate the lottery according to the charter and current lottery laws. The admissions process should remain the same as it is currently.

The following comments were made on the topic of **busing**:

- From Administrator Trudeau- There is very little likelihood of bus overcrowding. Bus ridership has been somewhat low. By placing 6th through 8th grades on the buses with high school, it should increase ridership and positively affect funding.
- From Ms. Rasmussen- Where will high school students park?
- From Chairman Barrus- Having seen the parking availability at Liberty Charter School, a school of similar enrollment, it appears that parking should be adequate for Compass high school students.

The following **general comments** were made:

- From Jodi Schultz- Middle school is a difficult time to split classes and force students to make new friends. The smaller school environment is better.
- From Chris Jensen- Feels confident that the board will make valiant efforts to keep the high school going.
- From Director Zito- Besides the plan from the High School Committee, what other options have been explored?
- From Administrator Trudeau- the idea of maintaining smaller high school classes was considered. This option would create a budget struggle and invite culture changes if the classes got too small. If chosen, at some point, this option might lead to the third option, which is having no high school.
- From Chairman Barrus- One of the premises the founders had was to maintain a small school environment. However, the more students you have, the more electives you can offer.
- From Chris Jensen- Having a K-12 school was always in the plans.
- From Susan Luke- The vision of the founders and the High School Committee was to have a viable high school that can support itself through the funding it generates.
- From Mr. Stadlander- The vision of the High School Committee is to have the #1 high school in the state. He asked what the board's vision is.
 - From Director Zito- Send as many students to college as possible and have them graduate from college.
 - From Director Simmons- Focus on academics, but have a large enough student body that they can have fun together.
 - From Director Adolf- To see Compass culture extend successfully through high school.
 - From Director Dison- Agreed with what the other directors had to say, but stressed the importance of the small school environment. She is concerned that if the school gets too big there may be a loss of focus.
 - From Chairman Barrus- a Harbor school should be an extension of the home. Her vision is to have a school that expands on what parents are doing to prepare students for a successful academic, social and emotional future.

- From Wendy Long- As the school is in operation longer, she expects that the attrition rate will go down. Proven success should encourage parents and students to stay for both the culture and the academic program.
- From Director Zito- the board should identify the contingencies to put into place regarding the final decision.
 - The attrition rates of similar schools should be obtained
 - It should be determined if the classes will generate sufficient funds to support additional staff and facility needs in both the short term and the long term.
 - Proposed facility changes should be investigated to determine their feasibility and cost.
 - It should be determined if facility changes and building acquisition costs fall within the projected budget.

Following public comments and board discussion, Director *Simmons* moved that *Compass Public Charter School* move forward with pursuing building expansion that would allow an additional 6th grade class, eventually doubling 6th through 8th grades. The expansion program would be dependent on sound fiscal accountability, the legality of the admissions and lottery process used, and the ability to acquire long term financing for the purchase of the remodeled building. Director Zito seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposing.

3. **Adjournment:** At 8:35, Director Dison moved that the meeting be adjourned by unanimous consent. Chairman Barrus declared the meeting adjourned without objection.

Chairperson

Secretary

Date Approved