

## **Minutes Cannon River STEM School**

**Thursday, January 14, 2010, 7:00 PM**

**Board of Directors Meeting (preceded by the Annual Meeting, a public reception with the board and staff beginning at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments were served).**

**In attendance: Deb Scheil, Caren Putrah, Gary Engstrom, Rob Hardy, Chris Broden, Erica Zweifel, Cheryl Freund, Teri Menard, Nalani McCutcheon and Julie Finnesgard—who became a board member shortly after the meeting began (Staff in attendance: Ginger Kranz and Jane Jirik; Public in attendance: Sara DuChene, Heather Carlin, Michael Garlitz, Jenny Trapp and son Nathan Trapp, Jean Brazil)**

### **AGENDA**

#### **I. Call to Order**

**II. Changes to Agenda/Approval of Agenda: *Erica moved to amend the minutes to move the board membership up in the agenda, Gary seconded, Nalani asked for an amendment to approve some donations in the meeting, Erica accepted that friendly amendment, motion passed***

#### **III. Public Comment.**

**An opportunity for the public to address the Cannon River STEM School Board.**

**IV. Approval of December 10th Minutes\*: *Caren motioned, Cheryl seconded, approved***

**V. Board membership for Julie Finnesgard: *Chris moved to approve, Teri seconded, motion passed; Chris moved to pass on the role of Treasurer to Julie, Teri seconded, Julie accepted, motion passed***

**VI. Executive Director Report\* (Nalani): enrollment, renovations, Race to the Top, teacher observations**

**VII. Staff Report (Deb): a little bit about what's going on in the classrooms, K—bird station, 1—deciding class pet, 2—simple machines w/Legos, 3—study of light and shadow, 4—looking forward to field trip to the History Center**

tomorrow, 5—book project with Head for the Hills, 6—first successful service project, over \$200 raised for Cancer research, Art classes made cards for children w/cancer at the local hospital, Family Arts night coming up

#### **VIII. Board Business**

##### **1. Finance Committee Report (Chris)**

a. Review of Monthly Financial Report for December 2009\*

b. CSP grant monitoring visit by U.S. Department of Education: this will take place on Wednesday, January 27th

3. Donations: money was donated in honor of leaving board members, in honor of Chris Broden's extensive volunteer work, Melalucca. *motion to accept donations, motion passed*

4. Review Policies on Student Admissions and Staffing & Hiring\*: discussion was held, different version of Student Admissions policy will be reviewed at next meeting, *Staffing & Hiring policy—Erica motioned to adopt, Chris seconded, motion passed*

5. Preliminary discussion of Race to the Top—Nalani shared key points of Race to the Top, CRSS has submitted a preliminary application “opted in”, we will have the opportunity to opt out at a later date if the program does not appear to be advantageous to CRSS

6. Discussion of class size and the possibility of adding second sections: discussion was held

a. *Gary moved to add a second section of Kindergarten, Teri seconded, in favor—Gary, Teri and Julie; opposed—Cheryl, Chris, Rob, Caren, Deb, motion did not pass*

b. *Chris moved to increase enrollment by 40 more students for the 2010-2011 school year, Cheryl seconded, motion passed*

#### **IX. Future meetings**

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment: *Gary moved to adjourn, Chris seconded, motion passed*

**NOTE:** This was Board Members Erica Zweifel and Gary Engstrom's last meeting. Each member was acknowledged for their hard work to help get CRSS started.

\*Included in board packet emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Copies available on request.

*Our mission is to foster each student's innate curiosity and joy of discovery and to address the growing need for*

***improved science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, locally, in Minnesota, and nationally.***

***Our vision is to be the preeminent leader in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education in Minnesota by combining academic rigor with social responsibility and mastery of the process of scientific inquiry.***