

Date: December 13, 2008

Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

In attendance: Amaris Obregon, Maher Budeir, Pam Holloway, Tracy Blair, Nada Diab, Lynne Hedgepeth, Samer Bashir

- I. Administration
- II. Principal's Report
  - a. MAPS
    - 1.) MAPS results far exceed expectations. A few points off in K and 7th Math.
    - 2.) Intervention specialists will utilize MAPS results when working with students
    - 3.) The goal this year is to push for differentiation of the students who are testing far and above grade level.
  - b. Financial
    - 1.) Financials are strong \$471,000 cash – ytd ahead of budget.
    - 2.) Operational Update – No longer need assistant in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade because now 21:1 ratio.
    - 3.) Salary freeze requested from Fulton County.
  - c. Green School Conference – 200 participants. Amana far and above others in terms of goals for being a Green Charter School. Not only facility – but this organization is trying to get public to understand that everything – curriculum, philosophy, etc. Amana is opposite of others – didn't get building first. Amana leading the way in that idea. Most important factor is networking. Mr. Temples and Brooke have continued their contacts. Paul wanted to get a better sense of what is technologically expected from K-12 education. Jelena looked for opportunities for our school. Very valuable experience for Paul – would like to present next year.
    - 1.) His main takeaway – mismatch between the students doing/viewing vs. what they experience in the classroom. Growing divide between how things learn – can we leverage this. Paul has the technology background but not the educational background – need to bring the teachers and Paul together.
    - 2.) Jelena wants many teachers to sign up for K-12 online course that teaches the technology. Need to find the funds to do it.
    - 3.) Mid January IT crew meeting should be scheduled.
  - d. IT Conference – Paul Holbrook – Georgia Educational Technology Conference. K-12 education.

Need to start showcasing this fact. Vicki Castro awarded prize from Captain Planet.
- III. Facility Crew – had 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting last week. Set following goals (3):
  - a. Mid January – specify real estate agent and architectural firm/engineering firm to work with master planning. 3 architects so far submitted proposals.

- b. Reach out to community lenders who specialize in Charter School community lending. Pam should be spearheading that effort – gather information. Credit crunch is an advantage because money are subsidized by grants.
- c. Location – everybody prefers to stay on this side of Milton Parkway/400/Holcomb Bridge. Will accept public input on this issue.
- d. Meet again on January 15 – late afternoon. Maher called out for any other volunteers with specific skills to help this effort to join the crew meetings.

#### IV. Governance

- a. First Read Policies – posted on website under leadership governance.
  - 1.) Communication Policy – needs to be looked at more – take action on it later since it was just posted yesterday.
  - 2.) Use of Parent List and Website – no comments – unanimous vote
  - 3.) Admissions– verbatim from Fulton County except when affects Amana specifically by grade level. Volunteer hour reviewed at time of reenrollment.
    - a.) Maher comment – “resident of Fulton County” must be specified that reside within Fulton County School District. – no comments – unanimous vote with noted change.
  - 4.) Enrollment –enrollment with siblings at end of first semester with open enrollment on February 1 – anything about single gender enrollment will be in a separate “single gender classroom policy.” – unanimous vote
  - 5.) Employee Reference – Goes against educational industry standards – flag for new employer that employee is not any good. About balance. Many comments went back and forth as how to achieve this balance. Need to be shelved as of now.
    - a.) Action items Amaris – check on insurance policy and check with Georgia Charter School Association – to National contacts (Texas, California)
- b. Policies taken action last week – 4 of them – will be issued to Nada: suspension, termination, staff member leaves of absence

#### V. Fund Development

- a. capital campaign and annual fund – call for crew to be assembled by next year. Amaris suggests to determine dates now so won’t be so overwhelming next year. Amaris sent out list for Shuaib as to what needs to be done. Should have a conference call setup when Shuaib gets back from out of town.
- b. Grant Writer – budget issues – so cannot make definite announcements right now.