AZACS

Meeting Of The Founding Board of Directors of ARIZONA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

Thursday, March 8, 2012 5:30 PM

4745 North 7th St., Suite 140, Phoenix, AZ 85014-3674

_____MINUTES_____

Present was:

Diana Diaz
Ron Harrison
Gregory E. Torrez
Josephine M. Torrez
Mary McEvilly-Hernandez
PER CONFERENCE CALL: Leo Valdez

Absent was:

Leonidas G. Condos

1) **Welcome and Attendance**
The meeting was called to order. It was determined that a quorum was present either in person or by proxy or by conference call and the meeting could conduct business.

2) **Approval of minutes from board meeting on 2/16/2012**
Diana Diaz calls to review the minutes and asks if there is a motion to approve. Gregory Torrez motions to approve the minutes. Mary Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3) **Resolution of intent to apply for a charter.**
Diana Diaz reports that we are working hard on Charter Application and making good headway. Right now Ron Harrison and Diana Diaz are working on the governance section of the application. Next they will work on the budget. Diana informs that the board needs to vote, agree and submit minutes as proof of Intent to apply for charter. Diana Diaz asks if there is a motion of intent to apply to the state board for the Autism charter school? Ron Harrison motions to intent to apply to state for the Autism charter school. Mary Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Follow-Up:
Josephine Torrez needs to provide a letter of the motion of intent to apply to state for Autism Charter School. Ron Harrison will get examples to Josephine a.s.a.p.

4) **Proposal to add Dr. Joseph Gentry to the board.**
Diana Diaz gave a brief background on Dr. Gentry. Dr Gentry's team agreed to work pro-bono during phase 1, application process. Diana Diaz offered the Gentry Team the 1st right of refusal to bid for the ABA Contracted position for AZACS. Greg Torrez clarified it is the 1st right of refusal at a fair market rate. Diana Diaz explained as of this point, we would just like to make members of the board and to help with the application. Once that is done we will create a 'memo of understanding'. Ron Harrison commented we will vote for them to be on board for now. Once the school is running Dr. Gentry will be on the 'advisory board' and possibly have one of his team working at the school, if they are hired. Diana Diaz asks if there is a motion to add Dr. Joseph Gentry and Sara Gentry and Gary Burgess, as a team with one vote, to our founding board? Ron Harrison motions to add the team as 1 vote to the founding board. Mary Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5) **Discussion on start-up budget and funding sources.**
Diana Diaz conferenced (call) in Mr. Leo Valdez at 6:15 pm. Mr. Leo Valdez is the financial expert for the AZACS team.

a) **Proof of funds for application, Review South Florida Autism Charter Budget as reference, Identify people to meet with in next two weeks about funding.**
Diana Diaz working on securing grants. By last week of May we need to provide proof of funds, start up money, thoughts Leo? Leo Valdez asked of the money was for operations or facilities? Diana explained that the operations costs would be covered by the 'per pupil funding', so the immediate funds needed would be for facilities. Leo Valdez suggested structuring and facilitating fundraising events other than personal donors. Diana Diaz explained there is no time for fundraising now. As far as the grants for start up there are two being worked on now for 30,000 and 200,000. Leo asked when the funds are needed by? Diana Clarified that 'proof of funds' is needed by May 2012. Leo asked if a letter can be provided from his foundation stating that they would be funding us. Leo will speak to his board to discuss the amount. Diana asked everyone for contacts to discuss fundraising. Leo asked to meet with few members of azacs board to discuss financial plans, strategies. Diana will call to set meeting. Diana asked Gregory contact Danny Ortega of NCLR to discuss financial possibilities, would like to find out if they have ever funded a school for autism. Greg Torrez explained that NCLR funding is for building charters, funding facilities; he will set a meeting with Mr. Ortega. Greg Torrez asked about SAARC. Diana Diaz explained that they would not be willing to help us. Greg Torrez suggested contacting their donors. Diana Diaz will contact Lisa Glow to discuss her knowledge of that information and possibility of her helping maybe being an advisory board member. Ron Harrison clarified that the money and grant money is not needed now; the letter of intent to show proof of funds is needed a.s.a.p. To show financial credibility. Greg Torrez suggested that there are many affluent citizens in our community who have children with autism. We need to contact for support. Greg suggested having a reception to inform the public of our intent, at reception share the vision of the charter school and have them donate or sign a letter of intent. Diana explained that the application needs letter of intent and or bank statements as proof of funds. Greg Torrez asked Diana to get clarification of the type of letter of intent needed. Diana Diaz discussed the need to investigate Phoenix Union High School District for leasing buildings and the cost, needs to be in the budget. Greg Torrez will get in contact with Dr. Scribner to discuss space availability and leasing fee. Diana presented Florida Autism Charter example of 'opening student enrollment' chart. She suggested the need to have about 6 classrooms, 9 students per room, 1 room for occupational therapy, 1 room for one on one work, 1 room for operations and an office; About 10-12 rooms total. Greg Torrez suggested preparing collaterals for a professional presentation for all our meetings with community. Diana Diaz emphasized we need every effort to get everything done in a timely manner and turned in on time. Once the application is complete we can receive grant monies.
Follow-Up:
Diana will contact Lisa Glow and set meeting with Leo Valdez. Josephine and Greg will contact Dr Scribner and Danny Ortega to set up meetings.

6) **Announcements, Upcoming meetings and events.**
Finance meeting at Charter Association office on 3/21, 10:30am-12:00pm: a specialist will meet with our team one on one, giving us information for start up money and what we need. Diana asked who was available to attend. Greg and Josephine Torrez will attend with Diana Diaz and Ron Harrison.

7) **Adjournment.**
Diana Diaz asks if there is a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7 pm. Josephine Torrez motions to adjourn meeting. Mary Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.