

Minutes of the Monday February 29th 2015
Governing body of Children of Promise Preparatory Academy Charter School
Meeting held at 3130 W. 111th Pl. Inglewood, CA 90303 at 5:00pm

Members Present: Dr. Candace Benton, Henry Leopold, Rodney Johnson, Kennedy Hillario, Susana Bolanos and Tamara Aburto.

Administration present: Dr. Carleton Lincoln and Trena Thompson

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Dr. Candace Benton
2. **Roll Call:** Roll call of members. Quorum
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** None
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Modification of Agenda:** None
6. **Welcome:** Dr. Benton welcomed everyone to the meeting.
7. **Approval of governing Board Meeting Minutes of January 25th:** Mr. Johnson motioned to approve minutes as written. Mr. Leopold seconded.

a. COPPA Items for Review

1.

COPPA New Facility Renovation and Occupancy Update – Dr. Lincoln & Mrs. Thompson

a. Facility Construction Update

- Unfortunately we have outgrown the facility, and at the end of the year every class will be doubled. Literally we won't have any more room.

- We are not able to use the modular option because we don't have space available for modules. We currently use West Campus parking lots as playgrounds for recess and lunch.

b. Facility Construction Update

- This morning we had a visit from Greenwich Financial investment. They did a site visit and were very impressed with our students. They want us to present our plan with the bond with to Chicago and other cities.

c. Progress of Elevator Repair and Temporary Occupancy Certificate/ Main Campus security upgrade

- We are in the process of getting the permanent elevator permits. OSHA just came up to do their annual review and they stated that we could not do any updates to the elevator because it is grandfathered in with the old regulations.

- Last Friday 27th we had a meeting with Mr. Mashaka and councilman Franklin. OSHA stated that the only way to make changes to the elevator was to change the whole controller which will be about \$200,000. The elevator is grandfathered in because it was created in 1962 we are exempt from the changes. The fire department stated that if OSHA says it is ok, then they will not required changes. Building control of Inglewood insists we must make changes. The last word was that we will do what we can, the city extended the temporary occupancy for another month. Our strategy is two-fold. The first is to find out through the building inspectors whether or not we can disable the elevator, go back to building and safety and completely remove the elevator from the building plans. If they say no to that, then we are going to go through the process to petition the whole entire council for an exception.

We've been exempted from the handicap facility as long as we have the same facilities on both floors. We are trying to negotiate with them and keep the good relationship.

Progress of COPPA Smarter Balance Test Preparation – (Discussion/Action)

a. Outside agency SBAC testing support search:

1. We are looking to employ an outside agency to help support COPPA student's digital reading skills and technology literacy on the upcoming SBAC.
2. Research around California and through the nations are finding out that these tests affect minority students. Our parents are becoming very upset with a test that affects the perception of our students being less. As school we do have the obligation to inform parents they have the option to opt out of taking the test.
3. Minority students who were closing the achieving gap are once again 50% below.
4. Previous years our students were excelling in their math scores, but last year with the SBAC they score to the bottom. The test is geared to independent learning.
5. If we have a high number of students opting out, could that impact our scores. By the state code the parents have that choice, there are no consequences.
6. We calculate that it will take at least 3 to 4 years for our students to shift from direct learners to become independent learners.
7. Many minority student's scores dropped up to 44 points. There are even affluent schools whose scores dropped about 20%. The tests are not fair.

New COPPA Outdoor Ed. Program and COPPA Leader In Me Program launching in March 2016 – (Dr. Lincoln & Mrs. Thompson)

- a. Mr. Lonnie Neal was hired as COPPA Director of Student Affairs and Character Development.* He has his own private foundation. We are already seeing some difference especially with our boys. He is now fulltime. Starting next week, he will be taking our middle school students off campus. They will be getting their PE uniforms.
- b. COPPA Chess Team returns every Wednesday after school.*

4. We now have established our COPPA Scholarship Foundation. Mrs. Cox, Sandra Clay and John (former director of Vallarta) are heading the scholarship foundation once all the paper work is completed and received from the state.

Administration 401K Current and Retroactive Establishment Update - (Discussion/Action):
Item tabled for next meeting.

8. Executive Director's Report :
 - Executive Director's Report – COPPA Financial Updates:
 - California State Budget: most school received approx. \$200 increase for our ADA per student. This was a onetime increase, we are not sure if this is going to be a permanent increase.
 - Attendance: our ADA is at 94.7% above the average.
 - We got an increase in our expenses most of it due to our new facilities.
 - We do not have any major expenses due for the building. We did have to pay \$23,000 on taxes because the first year we cannot be exempted by the organization.
 - If we could some fund raising for the upcoming trips in May and June and raise \$10 to 20K. If you have any ideas let us know. We allocated in the budget about \$30,000. This will be our first year using an outside agency for our trips.

11. Call for agenda items

12. Next Board meeting Monday March 28

12. Adjournment

- Mr. Hillario motioned to adjourn and Mr. Leopold seconded.