



Willow Education and Bay Area Technology School Board Meeting



Willow Education and Bay Area Technology School Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

Board Member Attendance:

The following directors were present at the meeting:

Baris Cagdaser, Ph.D.	-- President
Mehmet Sen, Ph.D.	-- Vice President
Ione Bell	-- Parent Representative / Parent Club President
Sefa Isik	-- Treasurer
Absent:	
Deniz Dogruer, MSc	-- Director
Ayhan Mutlu, Ph.D.	-- Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Dr. Cagdaser.

1. Approval of Previous BayTech Board Meeting Minutes

BayTech board meeting minutes from March 16, 2011 were reviewed. Principal Mr. Aydogdu and Ms. Bell suggested some corrections. To allow time for Ms. Bell to read, the Board voted on minutes after the Principal's update. Mr Isik moved to accept the minutes with suggested corrections, Dr. Cagdaser seconded. Dr. Sen and Ms. Bell also approved the minutes.

2. School Operation Update, presentation by the Principal

Mr. Aydogdu updated the Board on the school operations.

WASC Visit

Mr. Aydogdu thanked Board members for attending the dinner with WASC committee. Accreditation committee spent three days at the school site on visiting classrooms, talking to students, parents, and faculty. On the last day, they presented their report to the faculty and some students. Overall it was a very positive report and WASC will vote on our accreditation in June.

STAR Testing

Starting on May 4, 2011, BayTech students had their STAR testing. So far 97% of students have been tested. Mr. Aydogdu expects 99% of all students and subgroups as well to be tested after tomorrow's make-ups. Mr. Omar met one-on-one with students and set individual goals for each. There was also a motivational assembly with rewards promised for those who show



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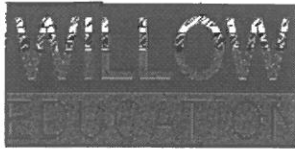
improvement. Starting one month ago, students needing additional help were assigned to teachers for additional tutoring. Even Mr. Aydogdu as the principal had a group of six students and rewarded perfect attendance by an off-campus lunch. BayTech also hired an outside company, Extreme Learning, for very low achieving students. Mr. Isik asked if any of our faculty was able to observe the outside company staff during the tutoring. Mr. Aydogdu replied and made the following comparison: our staff has the advantage of knowing students, while outside company has the advantage of not being tired from a full work day. Mr. Aydogdu also mentioned that Extreme Learning brought their own teaching material such as books and computers. Dr. Sen commented on advantages of having professionals that are entirely focused on improving student achievement through tutoring.

Ms. Bell told about her own observations through her son. She said that goal setting come right before the exam, which could have been done earlier at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Aydogdu agreed with Ms. Bell's comment but also mentioned the importance of motivating students close to the exam so that students take the exam seriously. Mr. Aydogdu mentioned a few cases that students randomly marked answers or distracted other students during the exam. Mr. Ozyer mentioned that teachers inherently motivate students throughout the year. Mr. Ozyer also agreed that the motivational meeting can happen earlier in the year. Ms. Bell commented that if a child does not pay attention during the school year, one meeting just before the exam will not make a difference. Mr. Ozyer replied that they were mainly trying to make sure that student cared about the test and tried doing their best, since there were a common thought among students that the STAR test would not matter.

Dr. Cagdaser summarized the topic saying that students with lack of knowledge need long term attention to raise their achievement, while many other students need to be reminded of the importance of the exam. Ms. Bell said that now she understands why motivating for doing their best at the exam was part of the goal setting. Dr. Cagdaser mentioned that teaching-to-the test is seen as negative in students' education since it prevents them from becoming independent thinkers. Dr. Cagdaser also agreed with Ms. Bell on importance of motivating students earlier in the school year. Dr. Sen agreed on mentioning STAR test within the last month before the exam to mentally prepare students. Dr. Cagdaser said he believes that the BayTech curriculum contains a healthy proportion of multiple choice problem solving. Mr. Ozyer mentioned that BayTech increased multiple choice assessments to a minimum of 20%, while the rest is more traditional methods.

I-Sweep Rewards

BayTech students participated at I-Sweep for the forth year. Three students worked with a UC Berkeley professor, using his lab and receiving help from his PhD students. They won a silver medal in environment category with their project of using bacteria to remove toxins. Mr. Ozyer mentioned that they worked every weekend since the beginning of the school year. Mr. Ercan said they also had to raise money for their travel. Students shared a \$600 cash reward and won \$7000 scholarship each for the North American Collage. Dr. Cagdaser commented that they were probably inspired by seeing the professor writing grant proposals for raising money. Mr. Aydogdu will ask Mr. Zack to prepare five groups and fifteen students for next years



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competition.

School Trips

Mr. Aydogdu showed pictures of ice skating party organized by the parent club. Ms. Bell commented that a lot of students showed up and had a lot of fun. Oakland Ice Center gave tickets for free to OUSD students and parent club sold them for \$5 to raise money for expenses.

Mr. Aydogdu showed pictures of the six flag trip, which was done as a reward of last year's STAR test advanced and proficient performance. He hoped that the trip would be a motivation for this year's testing.

BayTech students took the third place in the soccer tournament done with the two Magnolia schools in the area. Dr. Cagdaser commented that BayTech's basketball team seems to do better. Mr. Aydogdu said our high school basketball team is going to LA to compete with all Magnolia schools.

Mr. Aydogdu showed pictures of the senior trip to LA and pictures of the 10 day international trip to Turkey. Mr. Aydogdu said that students liked the trip and hospitality they received, and would like to go again. Mr. Aydogdu told about different activities they did during the trip. There were seven students, one parent, and three faculty members.

Enrollment

Mr. Aydogdu showed the enrollment numbers. Currently there are 182 enrolled, but there are a significant number of current students who have not submitted their forms. Mr. Ozyer commented that there is a common belief that it is still too early to submit.

Graduation

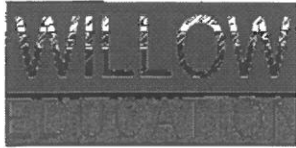
Mr. Aydogdu reminded graduation and promotion dates and asked for Board attendance. Ms. Bell asked if all students are graduating. Mr. Aydogdu replied that it is his hope that it will be the case.

3. FY 2011-2012 Budget

Dr. Cagdaser mentioned that we had a discussion about the budget the last and we need to vote on it this time since it will be submitted to OUSD in June. Dr. Cagdaser and Mr. Isik went over the main revenues and expenses with Mr. Nick.

Dr. Cagdaser iterated that there will be sixteen teachers. Mr. Isik asked how many new teaching positions there will be next year and Mr. Aydogdu replied that there will be two more new teachers next year. Mr. Aydogdu also explained that there will be one principal and one vice-principal.

Ms. Bell asked if we are hiring another secretary. Mr. Aydogdu replied that there will be one secretary and one office manager. Dr. Cagdaser asked what percentage of reporting is currently done by the secretary. Mr. Aydogdu replied that Mr. Ozyer is already helping this year. Mr.



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Aydogdu also explained that Mr. Ozyer will be working with Magnolia central office next year and with more enrollment the secretary will need help next year.

Mr. Isik asked if the facility rent is included in the item 5600. Mr. Isik commented that the enrollment assumption is 237 and Dr. Cagdaser mentioned that we need only half of the applicants to reach there. Mr. Isik asked and received confirmation that revenue numbers account for expected cuts. Dr. Sen commented that the budget seems stable with a healthy margin. Dr. Cagdaser mentioned that this year we will not add much we maintain our surplus. Dr. Sen commented that this is despite the new hires.

Mr. Aydogdu mentioned that school revenue starting from March through July will be delivered after August. BayTech managed to pay the teachers until the end of May and for June and July we will use our credit line with Wells Fargo, which was established by Mr. Aydogdu after he joined BayTech. Ms. Bell commented that they give pink-slips in school districts every year. Mr. Nick said he needs to submit the budget by the end of June. Dr. Cagdaser said the numbers look proportionally correct and moved to accept.

Mr. Isik asked what the district's proportion of salaries is. Mr. Nick said in percentages, it is 70s versus 60s in BayTech. Mr. Isik asked if we are not paying enough. Mr. Aydogdu explained that districts are unionized and have a large administrative overhead. Mr. Aydogdu also mentioned that BayTech's teacher salaries are comparable to district's average for the years of experience our teachers have. Mr. Isik moved to second and Dr. Sen also moved to accept. Ms. Bell pointed out a few typos and also moved to accept.

Mr. Aydogdu also mentioned that the district forgot to bill us for the utility over the previous two years and came up with a total bill of \$130,000. Dr. Cagdaser asked if the number seems correct, and Mr. Aydogdu confirmed. Dr. Cagdaser asked how the OUSD calculates the bill. Mr. Aydogdu said, they prorate the utility bill for the campus based on our percentage of usage. Mr. Aydogdu said that after many meetings we agreed that BayTech will pay \$100,000, which will be paid in installments. During the discussions, OUSD forgave BayTech's over-allocation fees and BayTech did the same for furniture cost. Mr. Aydogdu mentioned that utility is included in next year's budget, but the \$100,000 which will be paid over-time is not included yet.

4. Prop-39 Update

OUSD did not make any changes to their preliminary proposal and responded to our concerns saying that they will not change the pro-rata share amount which is used in facility cost calculations. OUSD's Prop-39 Final offer mentioned twelve teaching stations and one non-teaching station provided at current school site for 2011-2012 school year based on BayTech's 226 of in-district students' ADA projection. We requested two more small office spaces.

We also made three proposals: i) having water fountains on our site, ii) having a new gate so that outside people have to ring the bell and school administration will open the gate after checking the camera, iii) moving computer lab to the portables. Mr. Aydogdu commented that the computer lab heats up quickly and since it shares the AC, other classes get very cold. Mr.



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Aydogdu mentioned that we will pay in advance for these projects and OUSD will deduct it from our rent.

Public Forum:

Dr. Cagdaser opened the meeting to the public. There were no public comments, so Dr. Cagdaser closed the meeting to the public.

Members agreed to meet on July 13, 2011 for the next board meeting.

Minutes by

Baris Cagdaser
President
Willow Education