

Meeting Title: WMS Local Advisory Panel (LAP) - Approved 1-13-14

Date & Time: 4-6 pm, Mon., Dec. 16, 2013

Community Reps: Colin Miura

Family Reps: Daniel Gomez, Lori Bergin, Tim Beneski

Student Reps: Elections in progress

Members Present:

Certificated Reps: Nau'i Murphy, Jade Bowman, Erica Owens

Classified Reps: Lori Ching

WMS Admin: Matt Horne, Amy Kendziorski, Patti Cook Ho'okako'o Corp: Dr. Megan McCorriston, Dr. Guy Kaulukukui

Student Advisor: 0

Guests: None

Excused:

Classified Rep: Bernie Marsh

Community Reps: Dr. Kamana Beamer, Robert Lindsey

Ho'okako'o Corp. Reps: Robert Witt

Absent:

Family Reps: All present

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- 1. Welcome & Introductions (5mins) Colin Miura, Acting Chair
 - a. Introduction of Guests
 - b. Confirm Quorum
 - c. Review & Approve Minutes from Nov. 18, 2013
 - d. Preview Agenda
- Celebration of Mid-Year
 Student Progress in
 Reading & Math (5 mins)
 Matt Horne

MHorne began by saying there's lots to celebrate today – both dramatic student growth during 1st Semester – for which teachers, staff, students & families all deserve recognition for their incredible hard work! Also, just a few minutes ago, he received an email from a private donor that he's been working with for several months. The donor has now confirmed that their family foundation is making a \$266,500 donation to WMS! This will cover a number of things on our "wish list" and will help us begin to move forward on some of the items on our Accreditation Action Plan for Development and Resource Management. Matt said he literally just got the info a few minutes before the start of the LAP meeting so apologized to teachers and staff for not being able to share the news at an earlier Leadership Team meeting.

Detail for the grant are still being nailed down — the donor is pretty specific that their intention is that these funds help WMS by supporting academic achievement while also becoming sustainable financially. They want the funds to "kick start" other fundraising — that this money be leveraged to secure other sources of support.

A big portion of the grant will help eliminate WMS' monthly electrical expenses by paying to install a PV system. This has and will continue to require a lot of coordination w/ DOE – these are DOE buildings and we will also need to split away from the shared electrical system/metering WMS has w/ WES.

Some of the funding also will help address our high cost busing expenses, and may also help

Confirmed Quorum.

Approved what was submitted as is; awaiting SWAT Summary.

No revisions to the agenda.

No comments/input received.

provide support on an ongoing basis for K(Arts).

Check is being sent to HC. Great news! Matt thanked HC's David Gibson for being helpful with answering questions asked by the funder and also helping fulfill requirements to comply with IRS rules.

MHorne shared STAR Math & Reading Assessment results (graphic chart attached). Briefly, during 1st Semester '13-'14 SY, in what was just 4 months, WMS students have made "tremendous growth" in math and reading. Typically, in this amount of time, students are expected – nationally – to progress about .4 (4 months), but here's how our students did on average:

- 6th Grade Math has improved 1.2 grades since August
- 7th Grade Math has improved 1.4 grades since August
- 8th Grade Math has improved 1.2 grades since August
- 6th Grade Reading has improved 1.0 grades since August
- 7th Grade Reading has improved .7 grades since August
- 8th Grade Reading has improved .7 grades since August

Matt explained that STAR assessments are used in something like 76,000 schools across the US; they provide "a quick diagnostic picture – a blood pressure check that tells you about the health of the system."

3. Coordination for I-KAIR Campus Clean-Up Day: Jan. 20, 2014 – Patti Cook & Colin Miura Briefly reviewed the purpose of the day and primarily focused on asking everyone present to please reach out to family and friends to help recruit volunteers. The intent is really to support WMS' commitment to "continuous school improvement" via Accreditation.

MHorne & PCook reviewed status of project — that we are now asking for \$7M at the recommendation of Rep. Cindy Evans. This makes sense because (1) you don't always get all that you asked for; and (2) it could help assure funding available for PV, classroom furniture and technology.

PC will work with Nau'i Murphy and Janice English-Sommerville on presentation at the WCA Town Meeting – hopefully involving several WMS students.

4. New, 9-Classroom STEM
Building Advocacy – Patti
Cook

MHorne & PCook also reviewed presentation WMS made at meeting organized by Rep. Evans with Rep. Mark Nakashima and Rep. Richard Oshiro on 12/12/13. Meeting included many of Hawai'i Island's public charter schools – most of whom struggle to provide facilities, so it was awkward to be asking for so much when many in the room have so little. However, the other schools understand that WMS is "the school of the community" – we take all students regardless of circumstances and are a "conversion charter" so our needs are different. Excellent presentation by Taffi Wise providing an overview of public charter school issues, primarily focusing on funding equity and facilities.

PCook invited LAP and all of school-community to the Jan. 9, 2014 Waimea Cmty Assn. Town Meeting which will focus on Waimea's 2014 Legislative funding requests. Asked all present to please come and introduce yourself to Sen. Solomon & Rep. Evans and thank them for their continued support. Even if unable to attend meeting, if/when you see Rep. Evans or Sen. Solomon around town, please approach them and ask them to support our 9-classroom Science-Technology Building.

2014 Legislature begins 1/15/14; there will be times when WMS will be asking families and friends to call or email Legislators to convey support.

5. LAP Involvement in the Accreditation Visit: Mar. 30 – Apr. 2, 2014 – Accreditation Steering Committee

Details still being finalized about visit in late March-April; will have more specifics at the next meeting. Also briefly reviewed status of WMS Accreditation – Self Study has been finalized and submitted along with 4 Action Plans. MHorne expressed deep appreciation to all who contributed to this intense process.

MMcCorriston said that HAIS' Natalie Nimmer has extremely positive comments about our WMS Accreditation process – describes it as "a very positive experience." NNimmer has described the WMS Accreditation Process as more organized and very collaborative involving all stakeholders.

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LAP will be invited to participate in the Visiting Committee's 4-day in depth review of the school – March 30-April 2. More details on this to come.

6. Ho'okako'o & Charter Advocacy Update – Dr. Megan McCorriston

Brief discussion of recent KS meeting 12/12/13 in Honolulu attended by MMcCorriston, Dr. Beamer, MHorne and PCook. During the luncheon honoring and thanking Dee Jay Mailer, who will soon retire, both Dr. Beamer and MHorne spoke, thanking her and KS for their years of support. Was a very emotional presentation involving most of Hawai'l's Hawaiian Focused Public Charter Schools.

Dee Jay Mailer specifically recognized Ho'okako'o Corp and MMcCorriston for the work they are doing – and collaboration with KS.

This prompted a discussion of the status of HC's KS MOA – MMcCorriston said it's "really close" – that they are meeting again the next day and also KS has designated a liaison – Dr. Brandon Bunad -- to specifically focus on the HC schools – to get to know us more intimately – above and beyond the 3x a year written reports we submit. MMcCorriston said this will be really good to have someone who really understands conversion charters, whose issues are very different from the startup charters. Both sides will have a better understanding and definition of what's happening.

Dr. Bunad has worked for KS for a number of years – works for Chris Pating. Has served on the LSB for Kamakao, a successful, well regarded Hawaiian Focused public charter school.

MMcCorriston said he will come to visit WMS – perhaps as often as quarterly – get to know admin and faculty, etc. and do walk-throughs. Hoping this closer relationship will also facilitate sharing opportunities, PD, etc. between WMS and KS.

RE: KS MOA -

'12-13 – no \$ to HC or schools due to reserves '13-'14 – no direct funds for WMS due to reserve '14-'15 – KS just asked HC for this budget by 12/20. Expecting about \$200,000 for WMS This is why HC's DGibson is trying to raise funds

to make up for major reduction in KS funding.

GKaulukukui expressed concerns that there has been no sense of urgency about finalizing the HC MOA w/ KS.

MMcCorriston said she is meeting the next day with Mitch Dollier/Castle Foundation and Julie Chamberlain w/ Kipp Schools – a Charter management support group with deep pockets. Said both have partnered with pubic charters in the past – exploring opportunities with HC. This is one HC's new development initiatives.

Parent DGomez asked why the relationship between HC and KS and WMS had changed.

MMcCorriston and GKaulukukui talked about KS undergoing major audit and school reserves became an issue – WMS and HC had large reserves. Why give us more funding when we had so much in reserve.

This is actually more of an issue for WMS because both Kamaile and Kualapu'u spent down a lot of their reserves on ELT.

GKaulukukui also said KS is more focused now on student achievement, so more accountability.

Brief LAP discussion about LAP being more involved in the HC budgeting process; LAP needs to understand the budgeting process. "LAP wants to see themselves in the vision."

DGomez said it's important for LAP to have "more real input if we are to successfully recruit new LAP members."

7. WMS Budget Update and Future Priorities Planning – Matt Horne

Matt briefly reviewed handouts (see attached).

8. Concluding Remarks and Next Steps – Colin Miura

Colin and MHorne wished everyone a great holiday season.

Confirmed Future Meetings: Mondays as follows: 2/24, 3/31, 4/28, 5/19/14.

Submitted By: Patti Cook Date Submitted: 1-13-14