

# NASHVILLE CHINESE SCHOOL

## 大納城中文學校

Board Meeting  
June 9, 2007

Members Present: Bonnie Chen  
Celia Lee  
BeeLing Chang  
SuMei Chang  
Emory Shyong  
Susan Reiman  
John Liu

### Minutes:

- 10:36 pm – meeting opened formally.
- Discussion of NCS finances
  - Bonnie reported that the NCS certificate of deposit (CD) has matured at a value of \$40,488.39.
  - BeeLing reported that for Fiscal Year 2006 (Aug 06-May 07), NCS had an operating surplus of ~\$2,500, leaving a net balance of ~\$9,700 in the school checking account.
  - Board discussed the reinvestment of the proceeds into another CD (Bonnie suggested Reliant Bank's 11 month 5.60% CD).
  - Bonnie suggested adding \$4,511.61 from the school checking account to the new CD.
  - Bonnie made a motion to nominate John to move the \$45,000 to new CD at Reliant Bank yielding 5.60%, but only if the deposit is FDIC insured – otherwise John will find a suitable alternative CD (e.g., Amsouth Bank yielding 5.25%). Celia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - BeeLing wrote check #3102 made out to NCS in the amount of \$4,511.61 and gave it to John to deposit into the CD. Bonnie also gave the cashier's check #757967830 in the amount of \$40,488.39 to John to deposit into the CD.
- Discussion of NCS relationship with Metro School System
  - Bonnie emphasized the need for H.G. Hill principal and custodians to know their key contact within NCS should issues arise in the future.
  - Celia stated that the principal would not be the best person to serve as key contact and nominated John to be NCS liaison to H.G. Hill and Metro. Susan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Bonnie emphasized the need to set the 2007-2008 school year schedule and provide it to the H.G. Hill Middle School

principal as soon as possible for approval. She stated the guideline of providing this information at least 60 days prior to the beginning of class in order for Metro to have sufficient time to approve the dates.

- Discussion of NCS website
  - John reported that the website is in the process of being moved to a new server. Website should be back up in a few days.
- Discussion of Board nominees
  - Bonnie and SuMei submitted their resignations.
  - Celia suggested a guideline of having at least 2 board members who are parents in the bilingual program. She also suggested that no more than 2 board members can step down at one time to promote board continuity.
  - Board discussed the nominees.
  - Mr. Yao and Prof. Helmuth were approved by the board to replace Bonnie and SuMei and will start their term at the next board meeting.
- Discussion of Dr. Tam's retirement
  - Because of Dr. and Mrs. Tam's long history of dedication and service to NCS, Celia conveyed Principal Sherry and her desire to present them a gift certificate to thank them.
  - All board members and Principal Sherry contributed \$80 to a gift certificate for the Golden Coast restaurant.
- Discussion of proposed bylaws
  - Susan reviewed the proposed bylaws with the board.
  - John made a motion to adopt the new bylaws. Celia seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Election of new officers
  - Celia nominated John to be board chairperson. Bonnie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Celia nominated Susan to be board secretary. SuMei seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Celia nominated BeeLing to be board treasurer. Emory seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion of conflict of interests
  - John discussed Jason Lei's desire to relay to the board his conflict of interest in that he is the distributor of the IQ-Chinese software currently being adopted by NCS.
  - Board discussed Jason's involvement and service to the school this past year.
  - Everyone present believes IQ-Chinese can be a great tool to supplement Chinese teaching at NCS. Everyone agreed that adoption must be taken slowly and that student, teacher, and parent opinions must be considered.

- Board decided it would not necessarily be a conflict of interest if Jason distributes the software as long as NCS is adopting the software.
  - Board recommends that NCS gather orders from students and faculty and then purchase the software from Jason, rather than having Jason distribute it directly. This is similar to the distribution method for textbooks at NCS.
- 12:32 pm meeting closed formally

Friday, 03/30/07

## Metro students learn Chinese to compete in global market

*More schools groom future businesspeople*

By JAIME SARRIO  
*Staff Writer*

When Jack LeGrone completes third grade, he'll become one of the most sought-after members of the U.S. work force thanks to one skill increasingly in demand. He'll be able to speak Chinese.

Well, not fluently, of course. But even the few things he'll learn as a student at Julia Green Elementary will put him head and shoulders above older Americans who elected to study such practical languages as, ahem, Latin.

LeGrone is a student at one of three Metro schools that will offer Chinese for the first time next year. Two other schools — Hillsboro High School and West End Middle — also will offer the program so children are exposed to the language throughout grade school.

The goal is to groom students to become workers in a global marketplace by giving them the skills they need to compete. And with China poised to become the world's economic powerhouse, knowledge of the language sure wouldn't hurt.

"In 10 years, the largest English-speaking country is not going to be the United States, it is going to be China," Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia said. "At the early ages we want kids to be able to grasp phrases and words and familiarize themselves with the language."

Metro was the first public school district in the area to offer Chinese, Garcia said. Nashville schools launched the language two years ago at Hume-Fogg High School and



**Ping Shen Whittaker teaches a seventh-grade Chinese class at Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet School in Nashville on Thursday. This is Whittaker's second year teaching Chinese at MLK. She has been an educator for 26 years. (DIPTI VAIDYA / THE TENNESSEAN)**

also offer it at Martin Luther King Jr. If resources are available, the program may expand to Eakin Elementary, Garcia said.

Roger Biles, CEO of SourceMark, a Nashville-based manufacturing company with offices in China, said two of his 20 staffers are Chinese and help translate during meetings and business transactions. " ... If you have to speak one language it wouldn't be Spanish, it would be Chinese," he said. "If I'm going to hire someone now, it's going to be someone who would almost have to have knowledge of the culture."



MLK Magnet High's People to People International Club and Asian Club watch a Heritage Day presentation last month. MLK is among the Metro schools that teach Chinese classes. (JOHN PARTIPILO / FILE / THE TENNESSEAN)

Metro's only Chinese teacher, Ping Shen Whittaker, may well be training them. She said there's been a strong interest in the classes, even though students don't understand how valuable the language is. Nineteen students are enrolled at Hume-Fogg while 59 are enrolled at MLK, which serves middle and high school students.

"It's the novelty that attracts them, the curiosity," she said. "My middle school group thinks it is totally different from any other language."

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Five Metro schools will offer Chinese next year, and some private schools. Here's a sample:

**Metro schools**

Hume-Fogg High School  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Hillsboro High School  
Julia Green Elementary  
West End Middle

**Private schools**

Harpeth Hall, upper grades  
Montgomery Bell, upper grades (starts in fall)