

**International Association for Learning Alternatives
Board of Directors - Minutes
June 28-29, 2006
Ocean Shores, WA**

Present: Terry Adams, Wally Campbell, Dan Daly, Cheri Exner, Nate Hosley, Wayne Jennings, Ray Morley, Elizabeth Quigley, Bill Scalise, Irv Zisselman. Absent: Dave Lehman, Jackie Smith.
Also present: Terry Lydell, Lile Holland, Darlene Quayle, John Loflin.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennings at 3:40 pm. Thursday.

2. The agenda was approved.

3. State of Alternatives: State/Regional Reports

- Iowa – Strong support and well established programs. Struggles with NCLB mandated standardized testing & traditional teacher quality measures.
- Minnesota – Alternatives being forced into traditional practices by NCLB mandates and need more autonomy. Charters strong & growing.
- Georgia – Alternative association defunct & programs declining, punitive programs & organizations taking that role. Governor supports funding, but direction unclear.
- Washington – Distance learning having big impact, WALA sponsoring parent partner program. State Superintendent supports choices & districts cooperative for alternative settings.
- Connecticut – New Commissioner replaced non-supportive one. State suing US DOE over NCLB, due to struggles with testing and teacher “highly qualified” requirements. State organization started strong, but struggling & losing programs.
- Florida – No district-sponsored choice alternatives or state organizations. Options are punitive placements. Charters are well funded and growing, recruiting Spanish-speaking teachers from out of country.
- Pennsylvania – Alternative program funding decreasing, but numbers growing with over 600 “private provider” programs with strong support by DOE. Charters not performing well. Lock Haven University alternative studies program doing well.
- STARS Youth Organization – STARS crosses all boundaries and can serve to unite choice organizations with separate identities. Programs functioning in MN, IA, MI and CT, commitment for continued effort to start WA.

Alternative programs, once regarded as primarily public district-sponsored or independent programs often for at-risk youth or magnet-type niche markets, are suffering growing pains. New choice options such as home schools, distance learning, charters and other independent organization-sponsored models are expanding rapidly and creating competition for IALA’s support base.

4. Conferences

- a. WA: Holland reports that 127 people are registered, approximately 68 from Washington and 59 from other states/countries, which should cover expenses with a small profit. WALA escrowed '05 & '06 IALA dues for conference expenses and will be credited. Invited participants from the US House and Senate cancelled late. Lack of IALA name recognition and tangible benefits hampered regional marketing efforts. Suggestions for increased communications and electronic marketing, as well as a change in focus for IALA that will be addressed later in the agenda.
- b. PA: Quigley presents proposal for 2007 Conference “Back to Our Roots” to be held at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. Revenue projections and cost estimates were presented, and a committee is in place to plan & implement. Suggested dates are June 20 – 22, 2007. Non-traditional alternative activities will be featured, and suggestions were made to seek collaborating partners and grant funds for nationally recognized speakers. Due to the upcoming agenda item regarding the future direction of IALA, a focus on national leadership will be part of the conference. Scalise moves approval, Exner second, motion carries.

5. IALA Future Direction

Jennings and Daly presented a position paper entitled “IALA Manifesto: New Directions”. Annual conferences have recently been ineffective, in part due to the need being fulfilled by other organizations. An initiative to organize state leaders for an annual summit to advance the mission of IALA by influencing public policy might be a better use of resources. Choice programs need autonomy to be innovative and flourish and current national and state legislation hinders creativity. IALA could form new coalitions to assist educational change agents through best practices and a unified “voice for choice”. Due to the approval of the 2007 Conference, the

leadership forum will become a focus of that event. Further discussion to follow.

6. Approval of December 6, 2005 Board Minutes: Daly moves approval, Scalise second, motion carries.
7. The Agenda for the Annual Meeting was approved.
8. Financial Report:
 - Daly presents and reviews Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss Statements for FY'05. Jennings circulates 2005 tax statement. Discussion regarding audit and decision to do this year. Morley moves approval, Hosley second, statements approved.
 - Daly and Jennings present and review 2006 Budget. Exner moves approval, Scalise second, budget approved.
 - Daly presents and reviews Balance Sheet, Profit/Loss Statement and Bank Statement through 5/31/06. Morley moves approval, Hosley second, statements approved.
9. The meeting was recessed at 5:40 pm.
10. The meeting was reconvened at 4:30 pm Friday.
11. Old Business
 - a. Alt. Ed. Research Committee: Will use Seattle schools report on best practices as a model to survey other states regarding alternative education services. Exner will work on a national definition of educational alternatives using the Seattle work.
 - b. Morley suggests central place to house research and link from website. Morley, Jennings & Zisselman will proceed.
 - c. Archive of *Changing Schools* publications from Indiana University and outlining Alt. Ed. History have been donated by Bob Barr. Electronic conversion expense needed. Quigley moves approval including a thank you to Barr, Zisselman second, motion carries. Morley will check on costs.
12. New Business
 - a. Jennings moves to thank Dave Lehman for Board service and open the seat, Scalise second, motion carries.
 - b. Jennings moves appointment of Laura Stine, Oregon to open board seat, Scalise second, motion carries.
13. Action Items
 - a. Jennings announces intention to step down as volunteer Executive Director and nominates Daly to assume that role, Campbell second, motion carries.
 - b. Adams nominates re-election of current officers, Chairman: Jennings, Vice-Chair: Morley and Secretary/Treasurer: Daly, Exner second, motion carries.
14. IALA Future (Agenda item #5) Continued:

Daly recommends action on suggestions from the "Manifesto", stating that IALA must reach out to other progressive organizations supporting choice and form a coalition to influence public policy. Discussion produced the following:

Goals

 - a. Legislation/Policy: Create, support and promote state and national legislation allowing:
 - Alternative assessments to standardized tests
 - Alternative methods for teacher qualifications
 - Program autonomy
 - b. Membership/Leadership: Initiative to recruit leaders of state or national organizations to band together under IALA and attend the Leadership Summit next June in PA.
 - c. Communication: Create and use student activities through STARS to deliver platform.

Action Plan

 - a. Each board member will be responsible for a minimum of 5 states to research potential partner organizations and recruit leaders for the Summit. (Exner: AL, OR, WA, MT, ID. Scalise: ME, NY, MA, RI, CT.)
 - b. Daly will draft language, establish timeline and make assignments to other board members. Hosley moves approval, Campbell second, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Daly