

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 9/1/20

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Johann, Sasha, Theresa, Jamie, Jehanne, Curtis, Deidra, Brian, Kalen

Guest: None

Note taker: Johann

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Johann/Sasha/8/0

Correspondence: Kalen reported SunRidge received a donation of \$50,000 from an angel donor and a plan is developing to place a plaque on campus under the sycamore tree in honor of the donor.

Approval of minutes for June 9, 2020 meeting: Jamie/Curtis/6/0

Approval of minutes for June 24, 2020 meeting: Johann/Sasha/6/0

Approval of minutes for July 30, 2020 meeting: Deidra/Jamie/7/0

Open Session & Announcements: *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

No pending action items were discussed.

B) Admin Report

Theresa reported that homeschool enrollment is strong but the regular (“seat-based”) enrollment has suffered significant attrition due to the distance learning format. There has been interest from new families in applying to SunRidge so we are hopeful that enrollment in the seat-based program will increase to pre-COVID level.

Theresa reported a shortfall in pledge for the 2019-2020 school year of \$41,600.

The SunRidge pledge form was discussed. Specifically, the need for a new message to the parents which is sensitive and considerate of the current climate. Kalen reported that the SunRidge Foundation intends to create a video to address the importance of pledge and what it means to the SunRidge experience. A target date for this video is mid-September. Charter Council may want to make this a topic of discussion in the future.

Kalen reported that Inna Soroka, our 6th grade teacher accepted a position at a different school. An interim class teacher has been hired (committed through December) so SunRidge has some time to find a permanent replacement.

Kalen discussed the void left by Rebecca’s departure from Charter Council since she was responsible for taking meeting notes and drafting meeting minutes. Kalen requested a volunteer from Charter Council to commit to taking notes and drafting minutes at least through December so we have some continuity in

these tasks. Kalen requested whoever assumes this responsibility draft and deliver the minutes to Kalen within three days of the meeting. Johann agreed to take responsibility for these tasks through December.

C) Learning Continuity Plan Draft

Kalen discussed her work in drafting a learning continuity plan that provides details of the steps SunRidge has taken and is taking to ensure learning continues through this unprecedented time. The plan draft mentions several steps SunRidge has taken in light of the current health crises including: implementing a detailed safety plan and safety protocols; sending out three surveys to inform SunRidge on the needs and concerns of parents; holding two virtual town hall meetings and issuing regular bulletins to inform the parent body; obtaining technology and additional Chromebooks, obtaining student materials and safety equipment, providing personnel instruction, and creating systems to support distance learning; Charter Council holding special meeting to discuss developments in light of COVID-19. This plan will be presented to the public at the two special THUSD board meetings, shared with the faculty, and posted in the school's bulletin.

D) New Charter Council faculty rep bio (Jehanne Hale)

The new faculty representative on Charter Council Jehanne Hale presented her bio to the Council.

Action Item: Deidra will make sure Jehanne Hale gets an up-to-date Charter Council binder.

E) Charter Council Self-assessment

The Charter Council was evaluated its performance based on the duties of the Council as provided by the Charter and determined the Council was performing according to the Charter. No shortcomings were identified.

Action Item: The Council will seek a SunRidge parent to join and bring the Charter Council back into balance.

F) Discuss/address major issues and planning (charter renewal, pedagogical council, expectation document)

Kalen reports there are new laws related to charter schools which must be considered in renewing our Charter. Kalen asked for Council members who would be willing and able to watch webinars in preparation of the renewal. Curt, Deidra and Johann expressed interest. Kalen and/or Theresa will forward webinars to interested members.

Kalen asked the Council for feedback on the idea of creating a "pedagogical council" made up of two or three faculty members for the purpose of improving inter-faculty communications, curriculum support for faculty, and assisting in any necessary disciplinary actions. Kalen suggested a stipend for those faculty members who make up the council and, although funds for this would not be provided by the District, Kalen thought she might approach the Foundation about the funds necessary to provide the stipend. Jehanne liked the idea but believed the faculty really needed an educational director which would make the need for this council moot. Unfortunately, current budget restraints make this extremely unlikely in the immediate future. There was some discussion about how these members would be chosen and an internal faculty nomination/election process seemed to be favored. It was agreed that this discussion should be taken to the faculty.

The Council discussed the decision of independent versus dependent charter schools considering the expiration of the current Charter in June 2022. Some concern was expressed about the Council being

uncertain what the faculty position is on changing from dependent to independent. Council members would like to be informed on the faculty position prior to taking a position. The Council would like to present the faculty with the pros/cons identified by the Council to help inform a faculty position on dependent versus independent.

Action Item: Brian will review the shared google docs for what pros/cons are listed related to dependent versus independent. Kalen will look at the paper Metha created listing the pros/cons.

G) Long Term Planning, set goals

The Council discussed goals as we embark on a new school year. The goals discussed were: finalizing an stakeholder expectation document; identifying ways to support the faculty; funding leadership council; educating Council members in the process of charter renewal; defining what the charter renewal process will look like (dependent versus independent etc.); developing and communicating a strong message of inclusiveness/diversity for SunRidge.

H) Set meeting dates

Our meetings will be held regularly on the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. with exceptions as needed. Our next meeting will be Monday October 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Johann Hall