

**SunRidge School**  
**Charter Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for 12/07/20**

*Call to order:* 6:00pm

*Present:* Johann, Theresa, Sasha, Jehanne, Brian, Curtis, Jamie

*Absent:* Deidra

*Guests:* Kalen Wood, Sheina Curtis

*Note taker:* Johann

**Quorum:** yes

**Approval of agenda:** Theresa/Curtis/7/0

**Correspondence:** None reported

**Approval of minutes for November 2, 2020 meeting:** Curtis/Jamie/5/0/2

**Open Session & Announcements:**

Jehanne reported teachers are missing the monthly meal parents provided in the past. She suggested an alternative gesture might be considered as it makes teachers feel appreciated.

**A) Review Action Items/Old Business**

Deidra was going to invite Jana Lombardo and Leslie Wood. CC did not receive a report as Deidra was unable to be present at the meeting.

Kalen was going to reach out to Sasha to discuss drafting a SunRidge transgender policy – this is an item on tonight’s agenda and will be discussed later.

Kalen was going to contact Susanne at CSDC to ask about resources to educate CC on charter renewal – this is an item on tonight’s agenda and will be discussed later.

Kalen was going to provide an example of a diversity statements for CC to consider – this is an item on tonight’s agenda and will be discussed later.

Deidra was going to bring the draft expectations document for CC to consider. Although Deidra was not able to be present, she did email CC stating she would provide the document by email for CC consideration.

**B) Admin Report**

Theresa reported: enrollment is holding steady at about 270 students in the seat-based program. Homeschool enrollment is at 22, and attendance has never been better with the new distance learning format. Pledge has declined. SunRidge is collecting approximately \$3,500 a month in automatic payments and approximately \$1,500-\$2,000 a month in parent contributions outside of recurring payments. SunRidge participation rate is currently at 18 percent

Sheina has been asked by parents about the pledge packet previously sent to parents at the beginning of the school year, and if SunRidge would be sending anything this year. Theresa advised we didn't include the pledge packet this year as there was uncertainty about what the ask should be given the current state of things. The plan is to reinvigorate parent participation in pledge in January 2021. Kalen discussed a plan to release pledge video through SEF. Kalen also reported SEF agreed to match pledged funds for a specific period in January up to \$20,000.

Curtis asked whether we have a system to track chronic absenteeism, as that number negatively impacts the school's state dashboard profile. Curtis reported the state dashboard shows SunRidge's chronic absenteeism is at 16 percent. CC would like to review relevant data periodically. Theresa agreed to look at investigate how to report and suggested it be reported to CC twice a year.

Kalen reported: SunRidge continues to seek a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Distance learning appears as if it will continue through at least February 2021. THUSD is meeting this Thursday to discuss re-opening. Willie is out on medical leave through December 30<sup>th</sup> and Jaimie is out this week on bereavement. This makes janitorial needs difficult to meet currently. Two applicants have been interviewed to help fill the need. We are in good shape in terms of budget, approximately 80K above the mandated reserves. We received about \$100,000 in CARES funding and have spent all but \$2,200. Expenditures using CARES funds have included equipment necessary for re-opening such as PPE and cleaning products, and equipment to support distance learning. The funds have been used to address safety and health related to COVID-19 and technology related to distance learning.

Jehanne reported: a Student Council has formed to provide a voice for the students. The recently elected Council has expressed concern for how all students are doing in these trying times. They have been working on creating a survey to collect data. Another item they want to address is climate change. There has been discussion of creating a painting to raise awareness to this issue. School spirit is also a topic of student council. They would like to plan an event to bring some fun to SunRidge students. They came up with an idea involving *padlet*, an online forum where a photo can be posted and commented on. The intention is for students to offer a piece of art that relates to issues of climate change and in so doing facilitate discussion.

### **C) Parent Council Report**

Sheina Curtis reported on Parent Council. She reports a slow start as everybody adjusted to the present circumstances, but the Council is looking to reimagine itself this year. Parent Council reviewed our previous and current charters to understand what Parent Council's role has been. In her experience it has been focused on planning fundraising events every year for field trips. With charter renewal coming up, Parent Council is seeking to better define their role and become more involved.

There has been concern expressed amongst the Council that parents are isolated this year. They have been working to provide a forum to address parent concerns and help create community. Parent Council would like to create a survey for the parents to collect data on the trials of distance learning from the parent perspective.

Parents have expressed to Parent Council that one-on-one time is especially important to the ongoing education of students at SunRidge, as are smaller break out rooms, with more access to the teachers being

the important factor. Other parent suggestions included: adding fun activities during the school sessions. more project-based, and nature-based learning.

Parents have also expressed concerns of feeling disconnected from each other and the teachers and an overall lack of a parent community. Whereas community development happened organically previously, it is not so easy in present circumstances.

Parents are also concerned about their children on the internet. There have been instances of children discovering explicit web sites. Sheina suggested some parent education might be provided on how to protect our children from harmful material on the internet.

Sheina asked about how parent interests might be incorporated into a parent survey.

Sheina shared an idea of having regular meetings to coordinate action between Charter Council and Parent Council.

#### **D) FEAT Report**

Kalen provided the report.

FEAT now has a presence on the SunRidge website under the “about” tab. They also have a standing announcement in the newsletter. FEAT has finalized the wind-tunneling process and will be bringing it to the faculty. Once the initial data is collected, they will start to generate ideas on how the data might be used by SunRidge. Kalen will discuss the process further with the faculty.

FEAT has also expressed interest in being involved in the re-chartering process.

#### **E) Policy Review – Enrollment/Transgender policy**

Kalen reported perspective student recruitment will be unusual year because there will be no tours for perspective families. Kalen is working with Theresa on creating a virtual tour for perspective students.

Transgender policy – Sasha reported bringing the discussion to the faculty to gauge interest in faculty involvement in creating a policy. It appears the faculty is spread thin and nobody volunteered to help, at least so far. Sasha shared an example of a school transgender policy. Sasha requested that CC review the example policy to move the discussion forward. Sasha feels it is time to have a specific policy on the issue because there are more and more children affected. Kalen advised FEAT has also offered to help create a policy.

*Action Item: CC members to read transgender policy document Sasha sent via email.*

#### **F) LCAP Progress report**

LCAP was approved in October. Nothing additional to report.

#### **G) Safe School Plan Progress Report**

Kalen shared the draft document with CC. This annual safety plan focuses on program, people and site and is not related to COVID. The CC voted to approve:

## **H) Discuss Hybrid Model planning**

Two charter schools have opened in neighboring counties on a limited basis. Kalen thought putting our teachers together with teachers from schools that have opened is a good way to begin considering the reopening process. Kalen has consulted with Steve and Ron on how to provide the infrastructure and IT support needed at SunRidge to support distance/hybrid learning at SunRidge.

When we can re-open, we need to provide education to the parents on protocols. We are fortunate in that we have other schools to help inform our process. Heather and Christina have agreed to be the teacher representatives and Johann and Deidra have previously agreed to be CC representatives.

*Action Item: Kalen to set up meeting between Heather, Christina, Johann and Deidra to further this process.*

## **I) Expectations Document Review and Discussion**

Tabled until the next CC meeting.

*Action Item: Deidra to provide draft expectations documents to CC for consideration.*

## **J) Charter Renewal Discussion**

Kalen reached out to CDSC to request resources to assist in the re-chartering process. She got a response from CSDC suggesting scheduling a meeting to learn more about charter renewal process specific to SunRidge. Curtis, Brian, and Johann have agreed to be a part of the CC committee for Charter Renewal. Kalen would like to schedule a meeting January 15 for the CC committee with the presenter of the workshop she attended in October through the CDSC.

*Action Item: Kalen to schedule a meeting for CC renewal committee with CSDC*

## **K) Diversity Statement Discussion**

Sasha has an example statement she shared with CC. Jehanne appreciated an acknowledgement in the statement that SunRidge rejects any statements attributed to Rudolph Steiner which are divisive on racial or ethnic lines. Kalen suggests taking the statement to FEAT for their feedback. Kalen remarked we should credit the source if we use material from anywhere.

*Action Item: Sasha will bring the statement to the faculty to ask for input on how we foster diversity in the curriculum. Sasha to follow-up with FEAT on getting their input on the statement.*

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, January 11.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Johann Hall