

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 10/9/18

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Jamie, Kalen, Brian, Rebecca, Curt, Laurie, Deidra

Absent: Inna

Guest: Johann Hall

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Item D (was Board Education – Brown Act) changed to Safe School Plan; Curt/Laurie 5/0

Correspondence:

1. Starting next school year, charter schools must provide free and reduced price lunch; Apple Blossom contracts with Bay Area company called Revolution Foods (meals that meet standards and can be warmed up)
2. Charter Council chairperson email account is now up and running and Deidra is starting to receive mail.

Approval of minutes for August meeting: Curt/Rebecca 6/0

Open Session & Announcements *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

All Action Items/Old Business completed. Outcomes:

-Mark is interested in being a faculty rep (but he doesn't meet the requirements per the charter – faculty needs to discuss whether an exception should be made).

-Foundation is discussing incentivizing automatic pledge.

-Brian did some outreach for hiring but no responses.

-Kalen brought questions from MOU release to faculty and we learned they decided to end faculty meetings at 3:15.

-Rebecca did not bring minutes from SUSD meetings.

Action: Rebecca will bring several months of SUSD meeting minutes to November's meeting.

B) Admin Report

Hiring – Hiring committee has interviewed applicant and seen a demo lesson. A second applicant has been interviewed, with a demo lesson scheduled. Two other candidates have shown interest and sent resumes.

An anonymous donor has ensured a stipend will be paid to the middle-school teachers for the time they've spent teaching math this year.

Two people have expressed interested in the first-grade aide position. It's being covered now by two people who can continue in the position through December.

Deanna and Kalen are working on a proposal for the district in order to get approval to increase the After Care Program Coordinator pay, in order to make the position more appealing.

Pledge/enrollment – Homeschool enrollment is low. It has typically been 18-20, and is currently at 8. Enrollment needs to be at least 13 to break even. Some students have gone to seat-based programs, some have gone to other programs, some have moved away. Callie and Kalen are talking about determining the program's target population and how to better do outreach.

Attendance rate has been about 95% so far this year.

C) Review CAASPP Results – We saw four years of results for grades 3-8. We also saw comparisons with the state, the county, and the other schools in our district. Curt did an analysis comparing SunRidge with other Waldorf charters and the other traditional local schools. He didn't find any one of these schools to have higher scores. He also showed us a breakdown of how well the students did in different areas (e.g., listening versus writing within the ELA tests). In addition, he brought an analysis of the scores for demographic subgroups. He did not find a noticeable achievement gap.

C) Safe School Plan – We looked at the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for 2018-19. The items of focus are: a first-aid training scheduled for November; a plan for stocking the emergency shed efficiently; and a RESIG drill scheduled for this fall.

The plan includes the following goals:

Under *People and Programs*, goal #1 is to provide suicide prevention education to 7th and 8th graders utilizing community resources as well as district-provided materials. Goal #2 is to conduct the annual survey.

Under *Place*, goal #1 is to provide emergency procedure training to faculty and staff. This will include drills, site planning, replenishing supplies, first-aid training, epi-pen training, and communicating with parents re school emergency procedures. Goal #2 is to install a metal storage cabinet for flammable materials.

The plan also includes an assessment of progress made on last year's plan goals.

Finally, the plan includes an earthquake and fire drill schedule for 2018-19 and the incident command structure for emergencies.

Approval of Safe School Plan: Deidra/Jamie 6/0

D) Prospective Members – Charter Council members are willing to consider waiving the requirement of two years' experience at SunRidge in order to include Mark, in light of his Waldorf experience and the fact that we have three other teachers with many years' experience already serving on the council. Faculty will need to discuss whether they agree.

Action: Jamie will ask Mark about his interest level, then if he is interested, bring the question of waiving the requirement, to the faculty.

Q&A with Johann Hall. We voted to include him on the council. He will serve for a two-year term.

E) Review curriculum and instructional program – We are implementing a curriculum for the first time in the middle school for math, and we will be assessing its effectiveness during the year. ELA resources for 3rd-5th are being researched. We have progress reports for middle school that clearly delineate language arts skills, and this is needed for the lower grades as well. The focus will be on supporting the new math teacher with the new curriculum.

Kalen reports that the Spanish program is going very well.

Students in grades 3-5 are going to take Smarter Balanced tests on computer this year.

Action: Kalen will an update at the November meeting.

G) Long Term Goals discussion – Deidra reported on meeting with Robert and Dale from the Foundation, where they discussed the long-term financial health of SunRidge. They talked about the primary need being securing the site with direct ownership, sale of the site to a different owner (maybe the Foundation), or a much longer-term lease from SUSD. Lowering the rent expenditure is a top priority. Another option would be buying property elsewhere. (Lease is up in 2025, charter expires in 2022.)

They also talked about sources of funds we could pursue, and how these funds might be spent. The Foundation is pursuing more donors, grants, and employer matching funds.

Questions: Can teachers form their own union chapter, independent of THUSD, within a dependent charter? How can we increase teacher salaries? How much should we invest in this property without a secure future here?

H) Snack for November meeting – Deidra

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Davenport