

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 4/14/20

Call to order: 6:05pm

Present (via Zoom): Kalen, Jamie, Deidra, Curt, Theresa, Brian, Sasha, Rebecca

Absent: Inna, Johann

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Jamie/Theresa/7/0/0

Correspondence: *none*

Approval of minutes for March meeting: Curt/Sasha/7/0/0 (we are waiting for Johann to fill in a few details)

Open Session & Announcements: *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

Pledge letter: Johann prepared a pledge letter but it may not be the right moment. Pledge/budget appears on agenda.

School Survey review: We need to review the results, hard copies of which were distributed in March. This will need to be brought back. **Action: Review survey results.**

LCAP update: The next 3-year cycle won't begin until the beginning of next school year.

Budget Committee report: on agenda

B) Admin Report

Enrollment – Enrollment is looking strong for 2020-21. There were 174 applications (mostly K) for 30 spaces. Last year we received 198 applications.

Pledge – We have a serious shortfall and need to bring in \$76,000 over 2 months to meet our \$200K goal. We discussed whether it was reasonable to ask families to contribute under the circumstances. After discussion, we resolved that it would be reasonable to send a friendly reminder that the school still has bills to pay and is paying all staff through the end of the school year, encouraging those who can to continue/start pledging.

Hiring – Brian Eberly announced that he is resigning from his position. Cristina Gosling will take the rising 5th grade class. We are looking for a 1st grade class teacher, a math/physics teacher, and a couple of aides.

Distance learning update – The Twin Hills District is working on an MOU for distance learning guidelines. Some parents, especially those of younger children, have reported receiving an overwhelming amount of email from school. There was some interest in a parent portal.

Auction – The school made \$14,000 from the auction! Some items have been shipped and others will be available for pickup on Friday.

Yearbook – This “collector’s edition” is going forward, put together by Erin, and she is looking for photos of how students are engaging in distance learning.

C) Safe School Plan/LCAP Update – No changes/nothing to report. The deadline for the next cycle has been moved to the fall.

D) 2020-21 Budget Planning – The Budget Committee (Kalen, Theresa, Curt, and Deidra) met to work on next year’s budget. At this point, there are many unknowns related to state funding (we will know more in May), but even with funding at current levels we would be operating in a deficit, because of pledge, which is unlikely to bounce back to the level needed, and increased costs. The committee projected a deficit budget for at least the next two years.

Our big ticket items are rent and salaries. We have been able to negotiate down to a 1% yearly increase on our rent.

Our reserves are likely to go down to 9% (the district policy is 17%).

The committee looked at income and expenses, and explored options. They conducted an analysis of specialty programs, in the event cuts must be made, in terms of: cost, essential role in Waldorf education, and provision of break time for class teachers. Their conclusion was that we can’t balance the budget solely with cuts to specialty programs.

Brian encouraged us to think about how we could bring in money during the summer, especially if the Foundation were to take the lead.

One way to increase funding would be to increase the class size to 30. (SICS has 32 students per class.)

Action: Kalen will encourage faculty to join the committee.

Action: Kalen will reach out to the Foundation for a rep as well as for help covering the pledge gap.

Action: Kalen will ask Twin Hills District if there is any relief coming for schools?

E) 2020-21 Calendar – At the last faculty meeting, they were not ready to approve the calendar, so it may have to be approved by email in order to make the THUSD’s deadline. There was some discussion about starting earlier or later in August. After some discussion about what could happen with shelter-in-place and distance learning in the fall/winter, we decided that the best course of action would be to stick with the majority and be predictable, as that would be most supportive to most families.

Action: CC members to approve 2020-21 calendar by email.

F) Long-Term Planning – We agreed that it would make most sense to table this for a while, especially until we have a clearer picture of what next school year will look like.

Action: Brian will share list of questions we compiled for the Live Oak union rep.

G) Snack for May meeting – BYO again

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Davenport