

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 12/17/19

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Kalen, Rebecca, Jamie, Deidra, Johann, Brian, Curt, Theresa

Absent: Inna, Sasha

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Jamie/Johann/7/0

Correspondence: *none*

Approval of minutes for October meeting: 5/0

Approval of minutes for November meeting: 5/0 (with two minor changes – Theresa was not a guest but a member, and there were 4 classes that were new to online CAASPP testing)

Open Session & Announcements: *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

The facilitator Johann spoke with has not returned his communication.

B) Admin Report

Enrollment & Attendance – Chronic absenteeism is still a struggle for some families. This is the only CA Dashboard category for which we have a low score. Immunization is still challenging as some families try to avoid meeting the state requirements. Theresa has conversations scheduled with state organizations to become clear on what the law requires for the coming year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Most were postponed due to the Kincade fire and have been rescheduled.

Donations – An anonymous supporter (our “angel donor”) has given us again a generous gift of \$75,000, earmarked for field trips and professional development. Also, the Rotary Club has given SunRidge teachers \$2,200 in individual grants this year!

Hiring – Kalen and Christina interviewed a candidate with Waldorf education background (K-8 as a child) for the middle-school aide position.

Pledge – It’s well below where it should be at this time of year. The Foundation has researched alternate options for managing automated pledging and found that we already have the most efficient (if clunky)

system in place. They will be moving forward soon with messaging that encourages people to sign up. Could we use Venmo as a way to accept one-time donations, to make it easier for some parents than coming in?

Action: Theresa will bring us a comparison of how many individual families there are at the school currently versus several years ago. Brian is interested in determining whether this is impacting pledge.

Attrition Report – We discussed the potential for some loss of students as the state tightens up limits on medical exemptions for vaccination, especially for incoming kindergartners and rising 7th-graders.

C) LCAP Progress Report – The main changes we made for this year were: no more after school math support, ending work with Kim John Payne a year early, and bringing back the Tribes program, continuing Cyber Civics and Being Adept, and focusing on providing collaborative work time for teachers.

D) Approve Director Evaluation Process – new, streamlined process approved (Deidra/Johann/7/0).

E) Safe School Plan Progress Report –

Laurie and Theresa attended a training in Surviving Disaster: Recovery and Connection. Ms. Kindle and Ms. Godfrey were trained in Serious Behavior Management. Ms. Kindle is also attending a 3-part Behavioral Intervention Plan training. TRIBES refresher training for staff is scheduled for the January.

Some 8th-graders have been trained in social intervention and are helping 3rd-graders play more cooperatively during recess. SunRidge implemented a lockdown drill and practiced sheltering in place. There is an air purifier in every classroom. CPR training will be scheduled for faculty/staff this year. Also, on-line mandated reporter training and anti-harassment training are underway. Suicide prevention training will be scheduled for the 7th- and 8th- grade teachers and students. The district is going to be providing 50 ready-to-eat meals and some lanterns.

F) Budget review, specialty programs – Deidra and Kalen took inventory of the costs and benefits of the various specialty programs, since budget constraints and class teacher needs for break time are issues. Eurhythm and gardening are typically classes that support teachers but don't provide preps. Specialty classes that provide prep periods/breaks for class teachers are: Spanish (4th-8th), Handwork/Woodwork (1st-8th), Choir (1st-8th), and Gardening (only in 5th). In addition, there are blocks that are taught by support teachers, providing 3rd and 6-8th grade class teachers prep time. Movement classes provide prep time to teachers but is non-negotiable because it is required by the state.

We don't necessarily have to make cuts but we do have to think about how we will address it if the need arises. The situation will require a balance of meeting needs and keeping programs that make SunRidge special and support our mission and vision.

Action: In January, Kalen will be able to report in January about upcoming potential credential requirements for all charter-school teachers.

G) Review discipline policy

We spent time reading and reviewing the policy to begin to determine whether anything needs changing. Two questions we had were: In practice, are we actually following policy? Are we in line with district policy on the more serious discipline issues?

H) Charter Council Education (review consensus decision making)

All members received a booklet on consensus decision making printed by Seeds of Change.

Action: CC members to review booklet before January meeting.

I) Charter Council 2019/2020 Goals and facilitation discussion

Members received a copy of the seven core principles of Waldorf education, because we are likely to want to pursue the process of becoming “certified” as a public Waldorf school. Kalen is in communication with other local Waldorf schools about working together and sharing some common business costs. Kalen collected questions that we have around independent vs dependent status, to bring to the next North Bay administrators’ meeting that will be hosted at SunRidge.

Action: Kalen will schedule facilitation for our January meeting.

J) Snack for January meeting — Deidra

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Davenport