

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 1/15/19

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Kalen, Johann, Brian, Rebecca, Laurie

Guest: Theresa

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Johann/Curt/5/0

Correspondence: none

Approval of minutes for December meeting: Johann/Brian/4/0 (Rebecca abstained due to December absence)

Open Session & Announcements *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

All Action Items/Old Business completed.

Kalen spoke with Barbara Bickford and learned that charters can potentially have shorter-term independent studies.

B) Admin Report

Hiring – Lisa has been a strong teacher and is working hard, putting in extra hours as she is getting her feet under her. She is reporting that it's much more than a 19-hour-per-week commitment. She had wanted part-time work. For this and other reasons, she is going to leave by the February break. Kalen has rewritten the job description for more hours and has posted it.

Kalen is in conversation with an applicant for the after-care coordinator.

Pledge – Theresa brought a picture of participation percentages for each class. We are falling short of the goal for the year. 49% of families schoolwide are pledging, and we are at 34% of the goal with 45% of the school year elapsed. Admin is working on incentivizing enrolling in automatic credit-card and bank pledges, in addition to the incentives for full class participation and meeting class goals.

Enrollment – 6th grade and homeschool gained students, bringing total to 278. Most classes are full.

The 7th grade is performing a song at Waldorf at Weill.

Kim John Payne will conduct social-emotional trainings next Tuesday and Wednesday.

At the January Twin Hills Union School Board meeting, many teachers from all four district schools attended and spoke about the hardship of the salary scale and health-care costs.

Mariah Smith's photography is a donation worth about \$10,000 to the school. She asked that the funds be used to dispense \$500 mini-grants to teachers.

C) 8th grade trip discussion – Cristina’s class used some of their trip money for this year’s Ashland trip. A discussion around reducing trip costs ensued. The 7th grade is still in the research phase for their trip and it will likely be about \$1,000 per student. We will get an update and perhaps approve the trip in February.

D) Charter Council Membership recruitment – We’re in need of two faculty members to keep our ratio (Laurie will be stepping down this year.) Faculty interested in exploring options for commitment level, like “job”-sharing and one-year terms. We discussed these options and like the idea of one-year terms and also opening up the role to teachers with valuable experience but only one year at SunRidge (instead of the two years required in the charter). Policy would have to be reworded and approved.

Action: Kalen will bring our feedback to faculty and find out who is interested.

Action: CC membership policies need to be amended – this should be on next month’s agenda.

E) Internet Use Permission Form – We looked at the THUSD’s permission form. The middle school teachers like it and we are adopting it (minus one sentence that applied to younger students and was deleted from our adopted version).

F) Budget review – Budget has been revised since June to reflect actual state income. Losing 8 expected homeschool students, we lost about \$61,000 in funding. One-time money from state came in lower than promised, resulting in \$43,000 less income. We did not lose any money due to the emergency closure days. Revenue over expectations was about \$27,000. So the difference between last June’s budget and now is \$78,000 in additional expenses. We saved money on some teacher salaries and benefits. Our budget for materials saw an increase, part of which was spent on replacing outdated chrome books. The final balance to carry over to next year is looking like about +\$33,000, but even without that we have more than the 17% reserve required per THUSD Board policy).

G) LCAP Surveys –The surveys will go to 5th and 7th grade students, parents, and staff in February.

H) Charter Council Education – *tabled to February*

I) Long Term Planning discussion – This property is zoned for government utility. Deidra did some research and was cited a value of \$3 million for our site. Construction costs for a new building would be about \$1,000 per square foot, in addition to cost of land and “soft costs.” The current site houses about 33,000 square feet.

J) Snack for next meeting--?

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Davenport