

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 5/12/20

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Kalen, Johann, Rebecca, Theresa, Sasha, Inna, Bryan, Deidra, Curt

Absent: none

Guest: Metha Singleton

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: Theresa/Johann/8/0/0

Approval of minutes for April meeting: Deidra/Curt/6/0/2

Correspondence: *none*

Open Session & Announcements: *none*

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

Mark Quirt and Jehanne Hale joined the Budget Committee. Robert Simmons has been attending meetings. Kalen spoke with the district about any potential sources of financial relief for the school given the COVID crisis.

B) Admin Report

Pledge – There is an approximate \$89,000 shortfall at this point. We discussed changing the suggested donation to \$250 per student or \$400 per family with multiply children at the school.

Hiring – There have been 12 applications for the first-grade class teacher position and none for the math/physics position.

Action: *Kalen will check on and possibly update the EdJoin posting of the math teacher position.*

Attendance – During distance learning, a minimal bar has been set for attendance. Given that criterion, attendance has been high.

Call to action – Kalen suggested the CC meet biweekly until urgent budgetary and programming issues for the fall are settled. She also asked for a member to step up to write CC updates for the newsletter, to keep the community informed.

Action: *Deidra will schedule special meetings for the next couple of months, so that we meet biweekly.*

Action: *A CC member will volunteer to start writing brief updates for inclusion in school newsletters.*

Pedagogical Committee – Kalen discussed instituting a faculty committee (paid by stipends) to build leadership among the faculty and move curricular work forward.

Grading – For end-of-year reports, teachers will use a narrative format in kindergarten, and a rubric in the grades (mainly comments for the distance-learning period).

Inna Soroka announced that this would be her last Charter Council meeting.

Action: CC membership needs to be evaluated and new members recruited. This should be on the June agenda.

C) LCAP Update

School boards have until 12/15/20 to adopt a special 1-year LCAP (likely to be followed by a normal 3-year-cycle LCAP). Before the June THUSD board meeting, we need a report on:

- changes we've made in response to school closures and how we are meeting the needs of low-income, disadvantaged, and learning-disabled populations
- how we are providing quality education
- what we have done regarding school meals and after care (this portion is being written by Superintendent Bickford, as the response has been a districtwide one)

D) 2020-21 Budget Planning Discussion

Curt reported on behalf of the committee. Unfortunately, we do not yet have clear guidance from the state of CA, but they have said that we can expect this to be much worse than the '08 recession, with schools losing up to \$2000 ADA per student. The COLA could be 0-2%, which will impact the biggest piece of the budget – salaries.

We need \$330,000 to balance the budget. We will have to consider, unfortunately, reducing staffing, possibly with furloughs. A potential income source is increasing class sizes, which could net \$160,000.

The committee will continue to meet regularly and budget will be the main topic at the special May meeting.

E) Review Surveys

Theresa shared common themes/takeaways from the staff surveys. She looked for the biggest percent changes over last year's results. There were notable decreases in the following areas:

- the school has strong Waldorf curriculum and methods
- teachers are interested in Waldorf curriculum and methods
- the school has a rigorous academic program
- the school has a responsive multicultural curriculum
- there are clear rules and there is caring application of discipline

Also noted as more of a concern than in previous years were: bullying, students not respecting staff, problematic behavior, safety, administration efficient and caring, administration listens to teachers.

The parent survey results were more in line with what we have received in the past, with no unusual or glaring issues of note.

We discussed ideas for addressing faculty concerns. One suggestion is the formation of a Pedagogical Committee, perhaps paid for with Foundation funds. Another is for the faculty to take up a study of the Core Principles of Waldorf Education and to find ways to make them their own.

Kalen and teachers both acknowledged that lack of cohesion and a sense of security are problematic and need to be addressed.

F) Distance Learning Update/Discussion

We had our spring break early, then gave teachers a week to devise a plan and to receive some training. The move to distance/online learning was especially challenging for a school that normally encourages minimal technology use, especially among younger students. We also don't have the benefit of being part of a larger district that includes similar schools. All four of the small THUSD schools are unique. So we were in large part figuring it out on our own.

Most teachers reported having Zoom meetings with students about 3 times per week. They started using or investigating Google classroom. Most teachers are starting to see a dropoff in participation in May.

Many parents would like to see a Parent Portal for dispersion of information, rather than receiving lots of emails and having to look at different websites.

Angela Kindle has been teaching RSP classes in small groups as well as meeting regularly with individual students. Still, some of the students who have IEPs are among those not participating.

Questions: What will tech needs for next year be (need to know for budget)? What training will faculty need? What has worked? What feedback have teachers gotten from families? How do you form a class/build relationships? How do you strive for equity given all the varying levels of support and resources from family to family? How do we best meet the needs of students with learning challenges/IEPs and/or have other disadvantages?

Action: *With district feedback, Kalen will develop a survey to send out to parents.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Davenport*