

SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 9/11/18

Call to order: 6:00pm

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

Absent: Curt, Deidra

Guest: Johann Hall, Barbara Bickford (second half of meeting)

Note taker: Rebecca

Quorum: yes

Approval of agenda: switching E and F; Rebecca/Jamie 5/0

Correspondence: communicating with Alliance member about getting 'public Waldorf' certification and it's been suggested that we pursue this avenue after fully implementing KJP's social-emotional program

Approval of minutes for May meeting: Rebecca/Laurie 2/1 (only those who were in attendance in May voted)

Approval of minutes for August meeting: Inna/Jamie 5/0

Open Session & Announcements: Johann is interested in joining.

Action: Inna will bring question to Faculty Meeting of whether anyone is interested in joining in order to maintain the ratio.

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

All Action Items/Old Business completed, with exception of updates to website to include information for potential CC candidates

B) Admin Report

Pledge/enrollment – We saw breakdown by class and saw that many classes met their 100% pledging goal. Enrollment is at 275, with homeschool enrollment down to 8. Outreach is being done.

Action: Kalen to ask Foundation to incentivize enrolling in automatic deduction program.

Hiring – Looking for first-grade aide, math specialist, and After Care director and aide.

Health of the School – Teachers say highlights are new forest paths, new teachers feel warmly welcomed, specialty program is supportive, track is being enjoyed, middle school students speaking at assembly.

Hot spots: Hillside table becoming problematic in terms of supervision. A new boundary of the cement wall has been established. There is concern over not having a first-grade aide (though a parent has been filling in every morning and other faculty members filling in for the afternoon) – no one has applied.

Action: Brian to reach out to potential candidate for this and possibly After Care position.

It has been difficult to find a math specialist. Job description is being revised to include potential candidates who may not yet hold a credential. It should be online in the next day or two.

C) Budget Review – Gap funding from government is now at 100%, which means \$344 per student instead of last year's \$147 per student. Some of this increased funding is going toward replacement of two sets of chrome books. Total revenue is approximately \$2.8 million. After Care is expected to pay for itself this year.

Expenses are at about \$2.6 million. Balance carrying over from last year added to the excess of this year's budget = \$625K (some of which is restricted).

D) District MOU reports – An MOU is an agreement between SunRidge and the Twin Hills Union School District in order to pay for services to SunRidge from the district. We first reviewed the business MOU for 2017-18, which itemized the district's operating expenses and listed SunRidge's percent share at 23.27%, for a total of \$195,800 paid to the district.

Next we reviewed the special education MOU between SunRidge and THUSD for the 2017-18 school year. Our special ed expenses exceed our allocation of funds from the district. We pay about \$7,000 for nurse services, about \$7,000 for psychologist, in addition to speech and insurance, for a total of about \$56,000.

F) Faculty MOU – Barbara Bickford joined our meeting to clarify what happened with employee MOU negotiations. The MOU was originally negotiated around 2008. Barbara said she was willing to release the MOU because she felt the items could go either into SunRidge's charter or the THTA contract. The MOU was released last spring. In the absence of the MOU: two things need to be addressed: providing a daily free period or 30-minute lunch break (issue #1) and the extension of the workday on Thursdays for faculty meetings (issue #2).

Issue #1: SunRidge teachers wanted to continue to eat with their students, though the contract specified a 30-minute lunch break. The MOU covered this gray area to allow for teachers to have lunch with their students by stating that an average of a free period daily would be provided. This issue (Article 8 in the THTA is part of this year's openers for the district-union negotiations. SunRidge will send a rep to the negotiating table. Faculty brought that they want a 30-minute break at some point in the middle of the day, not during the students' lunch.

Issue #2: SunRidge teachers have traditionally extended their workday until 4pm on Thursdays for 2 ½-hour-long faculty meetings, though some teachers would like this school day to end earlier, like the other days. Once decided, this can be resolved either through a new MOU or through changes to the contract.

Action -- A committee of teachers has been formed by Kalen and will meet in order to look at both of these issues. Kalen will report back on the outcome of this committee's work.

E) Board Education -- Kalen distributed two handouts: One is a synopsis of the Brown Act for all to read and be mindful of; the other is a delineation of the roles and responsibilities of Charter Council versus Director.

G) Safe Schools Plan – Last year's goals were: 1) Implement suicide prevention plan for faculty and students; 2) Conduct survey of students; assess and fix issues around property (result: ended up fixing many counters, replacing woodworking roof, replacing gutters, other projects over summer); 3) Emergency preparedness trainings for teachers and staff; assessed and updated emergency supplies (food, water) and came up with plan for clearly compiling and labeling supplies needed for various first responders. First-aid training for teachers will happen in November.

H) Long Term Goal discussion – Do we want to try to secure this site in an ownership model? The things the faculty wants to invest auction money in are major investments in this site (commercial kitchen, outdoor gathering space). How would our relationship with the school districts change if we owned the building? We discussed possibilities for negotiating to purchase the site, which all seem to be in agreement is a desirable long-term home for SunRidge. *How much would this site cost if sold?*

How do we make the math position closer to full-time and more desirable and make the program robust?

Charter renewal/Do we want to be independent?

There is also a charter management organization that is serving several schools.

Big sustainability question: How can we pay the teachers more?

Action: Rebecca will bring minutes from some Sebastopol Union School District meetings for CC to review.

I) Snack for October meeting – Inna

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Davenport