

**SunRidge School
Charter Council Meeting
Minutes for 2/15/17**

Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.

Present: Kalen, Laurie, Linda, Elisabeth, Deidra, Heather, Rebecca, Robert

Absent: Inna

Note taker: Theresa Thomasson

Guests:

Quorum: yes

Approval of Agenda: Approved Deidra/Heather 6/0

Correspondence:

Approval of Minutes for 1/17/17: Linda/Deidra 6/0

Open Session & Announcements: Linda is offering to work with a class that might be interested in doing Restorative Practices at Armstrong Woods. Deidra would like the CC to revisit the subject of Aftercare. Kalen mentioned the Walk Through today was well attended.

A) Review Action Items/Old Business

- Action items were completed with the exception of: Charter Council Education diversity discussion (future agenda item –revisit this subject).
- Elisabeth will contact the 5th grade teacher regarding suggestions for a new CC parent rep.
- Kalen would like to have a recap of CC meetings posted in the weekly bulletin.

B) Admin Report (Alliance Conference; school safety, closure; Parent Ed)

Pledge – Pledge is improving slightly. Letters are being emailed to families that have not yet begun to pledge emphasizing the need for pledge contributions.

Enrollment – Enrollment is strong. The few spaces created by students who have left mid-year are being filled.

Hiring Committee – Deidra will be the parent rep for the committee for hiring the new kinder teacher (Kate O'Brien is retiring).

Parent Ed. – Don Basmajian's lecture was well attended. Being Adept for 7/8th graders is beginning soon. Ben Klocek will be coming in April.

North Bay Administrator group – The group met for their quarterly meeting recently. They reviewed Waldorf at Weill and gathered suggestions for next year's event. They discussed CAASPP testing waiver and would like to explore making it a permanent waiver. The Journey School is offering to provide substantial "evidence" in favor of paper/pencil testing for lower grades. The science test for 5th/8th is a pilot this year and only offered online. Kalen is researching a waiver for 5th grade as students are not prepared for an online test. Parent participation in NBA group was discussed and it seems SunRidge School is well supported by parent participation.

Attendance/tardies – 2 letters have been sent to parents regarding tardies and unexcused absences.

Aftercare – Kalen has been meeting with kinder teachers and Deanna Kempthorne regarding Aftercare. A survey of needs will be sent to the parents soon.

C) Membership update

Rebecca noted the revised CC member update sheet should say "1/13/17", not 1/13/16.

D) Site Committee Report

Kalen presented a Vision & Mission statement being crafted by the committee for CC information. Kalen also presented a plan proposed by the Gardening teacher. Discussion and suggestions by CC members. 3rd grade will be speaking about proper composting at the assembly this Friday. A suggestion was made to look at not planting more food plants on the hillside where cars idle and drive through.

E) 2017-18 Calendar discussion

Kalen is proposing 2 teachers begin working on the calendar for next school year. There are calendars from other schools that we will consider aligning with when possible/practical.

Teachers are suggesting a 4-day weekend in October.

Parents like a shorter week for Thanksgiving break.

Christmas break will be particularly tricky next year. Teachers liked the schedule this year, parents not as much.

It was mentioned local pre-schools are aligned with the Twin Hills calendar.

F) Charter Renewal final edit

Kalen emailed the revised document to CC members. Rebecca will be proofing. Email responses and comments to CC members. Kalen will be sending it to Barbara in a week for inclusion for the March Twin Hills school board meeting.

G) 2017-18 Budget

Kalen shared information from our superintendent about the upcoming budget. From the state level, there are billions of dollars that will not be coming to education. Teacher benefits and retirement costs are increasing significantly and affecting our budget. COLA increase looks to be about 1.5%. The budget will be to revisited in March.

Action – Theresa will report in March on the percent of students that reside in the various districts that are part of our school.

H) Long-term planning/LCAP & program review

Rebecca and Kalen have been working on the long-term planning originally set into motion with Karin Demarest. LCAP is meant to target under-achieving students. From LCAP we are able to have the following social/emotional programs: Seeds of Awareness, Kim John Payne, and Restorative Practices with Linda Clopton. The previous committees were: Ed. Program, Kindergarten and site Beautification. Current committee(s) is/are: Site Committee which is also overseeing the garden program and kindergarten yard. Some CC members would like the PC and Foundation minutes emailed to them.

Action – Kalen will ask Makena to include a link in the CC minutes to the PC & Foundation minutes.

There was much discussion about usage of the site, committee needs, etc. The CC mandated the site committee to do the work of previous committees. There was some discussion regarding the Spanish program. The Spanish program now has its own classroom for middle school classes, mentoring is in place and grading system is being refined. Kalen has been meeting with Spanish teacher, class teachers and parents to support program development.

I) Field trip costs & fundraising discussion

Kalen provided documents regarding field trips and fundraising. Kalen went over the Planning Process Calendar with the CC with suggested timeline changes:

6th grade – Hot lunch fundraiser

7th grade – Chocolate Sales

8th grade – Possibly Raffle Sales

Suggested changes to the wording were offered. It was also suggested parents might like to have more fundraising and less out-of-pocket “charges” for field trips. Parents need to have early communication (May?) and then again in the fall regarding field trips. Suggested looking at Falling Leaves proceeds paying for K-3 field trips.

It was also noted that the Coordinating Committee is made up of representation from the CC, Foundation, PC, Kalen and Laurie McKenzie (faculty rep).

J) Director Evaluation review

Deidra reported on the peer evaluations received. Very good reviews and comments. Minor suggestions for improvement. Deidra suggested unifying the various surveys. Questions about who should be receiving a survey and should time be made for completion during a faculty meeting will need to be looked at.

K) Assign snack duty for March meeting

Deidra will provide snacks for the March 14th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Thomasson