

**Optimist Youth Home & Family Services  
Charter School Board Meeting  
6957 N. Figueroa St.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90042  
YLC Board Room**

**Meeting Minutes for: Oct. 7, 2013**

**Call to order:** 6:05 p.m. Bill Snyder

**Welcome:** No public guests noted. Special thanks to Alan Eskot and Lynn DeYoung for making the Optimist Charter School a reality; Paul Landry from LACOE here tonight also to meet with board members regarding their timely submitted Form 700.

**Flag Salute:** Ted Carter

**Roll Call of Members:** Bill Snyder

Bill Snyder  
Dee Gadbury  
Malak Kazan  
Dennis Andolsek  
Gary Austin  
Bill Bertrand  
Ted Carter  
Pam Duben  
Steve Duben  
Jesse Fox  
Kathy McCutheon  
Linda McWeeney  
Terry McWeeney  
Linnie Murphy  
Richard Niederberg  
Lenna Welling  
Ron Villachica

**Staff in Attendance:**

Crystal Brackin  
Doug Buttrick  
Lynn DeYoung  
Alan Eskot  
Sil Orlando  
Michelle Suyat

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Approval of Agenda Items: No comment
2. Approval of Minutes from prior Meeting: Bill Bertrand motioned and Gary Austin second; no opposition, approved.
3. Public Comment on non-agenda items: No public attendees

4. Public Comment on agenda items: No public attendees

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **1. Charter Update:**

Alan Eskot: Open the Charter School on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with 48 students; currently have 53; one 7<sup>th</sup> and one 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the rest are 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders; 8 successful day with new staff; worked schedules and database till 10:30 p.m. the Wednesday; three start on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and 8 kids in the wings to start end of week; 64 kids in pipeline; hired credentialed art and history teachers and English credentialed staff; science difficult to attract and hire; hired a person 1 month ago and resigned after 1<sup>st</sup> day she was too inexperienced for Optimist student population ; 12 special education kids in program; resource specialist inclusion; Henry Springer full-time instructor going into class room providing additional instruction. 30-40 minutes in separate room for bolstering English and Math skills. Visits from Danny Andalon and Joaquin Hernandez LACOE authorization unit; plan to hire part-time consultant to help with learning the new systems to become compliant with these requirements quickly and transfer knowledge to staff. Reviewing supervision and training for staff; Meeting weekly with staff for training, supervision, and teambuilding; Adapted the calendar to meet minute requirements. Operating 174 calendar days, extended 373 minutes, 63258 minutes total instructional time and allow for training days for instructors, 13 minimum days; every Wednesday this month for this purpose. 177K available funding to be received in a few weeks. English language plan which was last requirement: 1 minor change and requirements will be resubmitted; Pathways system with student information and attendance date, send information to state for reporting purposes. IEP program and education system called SIRAS used by SELPA and started using/purchased. IEP meetings required within 30 days; Academic testing system called MAP computer based testing purchased; 2 day conference in San Francisco for Lynn and Alan are registered and will gain knowledge on regulations, standards, legislation and network of with Charter School administrators; was recommended by Joaquin. For high schools credits and diploma, need WASC accreditation; application submitted; March 12<sup>th</sup> review scheduled and will be retroactive relates to graduation credits; Bill Snyder: Timing for accreditation. Alan: Similar to State but new process so plan to submit 2 months early before visit. Operational issue has been focus. Phil Infelise: physical education and recess discussion requested; Lynn: 2 art classes, 3 physical ed classes (most attendance), 2 auto shop classes and 3 computer classes. Alan: Full range of elective program with fine and technical arts; only charter offering auto shop. Bill Bertrand: Lenna Welling: questioned reduced days on Wednesday; Alan: kids return to dorm or other scheduled activities; only miss 1 hr and 15 minutes in class time; facility has most staff on Wednesdays to accommodate this.

#### **2. Dedication Ceremony**

Sil: Several discussions in the past and need to revisit this; because of admissions policy preferential waiting given to kids as part of admissions; capacity for 90. Issue this year. LACOE does not mandate that we have to advertise; a dedication ceremony now will bring publicity which should be delayed. Attendees will need to included LA bd

supervisors and LACOE members will need to be invited; wait until 1 year anniversary to get success / 1 year under our belt; Pam agreed we would have something to show; Dee send a thank you note to different constituencies and invite for visit prior to dedication. Gary: agreed with points raised and delay is appropriate.

**Discussion Items requiring action:**

**1. Approval of:**

- a. Revised Admissions Policy:** legal and terminology changes mostly; weighting 3:1 in favor of probation placed students ; Sil: after we're full we will have lotteries without any set schedule given our population; Bill B. do we need to meet as Board; Sil no Board will not need to meet; parents will attend if their child is on waiting list; Lynn Overflow go to waiting list; Pam once your in the school your in. Local students will be taking slot for full years vs our population is less stable, shorter; Alan: once accepted, submitting paperwork is required with specific timelines; Steve Duben motioned and Ted Carter second; no opposition
- b. SELPA Assurances:** Sil: SELPA Assurances has to be approved by the Board. No discussion; Richard Niederberg motion accept as written and Ted Carter second; no opposition.
- c. 2013-14 School Calendar:** Alan: 63258 minutes, 174 days; try to model calendar non public school calendar; 2 weeks vacation in Winter break; June 20<sup>th</sup> vs June 30<sup>th</sup> year end; 7:20 to 3:15; 373 minutes of instruction vs 360 minutes; actual minutes in class room; passing time is 2 minutes; approved by LACOE; and put into petition; Steve Duben minutes in classroom to operational definition; Alan only allow 2 minutes passing time; Richard Niederberg motioned and Pam Duben second; no opposition.

Next meeting is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Meeting Adjournment:** 6:37 adjourned.

**Next Meeting Date: Nov. 4, 2013**

Respectfully Submitted: Malak Kazan, Optimist Charter School Board - Secretary