

Optimist Youth Home & Family Services  
Charter School Board Meeting  
6957 N. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles CA 90042  
Youth Learning Center Board Room

Minutes of Meeting August 7, 2017  
6:05 PM

**Welcome and Call to Order** – President Malak Kazan

**Roll Call of Board Members:** Secretary Linda McWeeney

**Board Officers in Attendance:**

President Malak Kazan  
Vice President Steve Duben  
Vice President Dennis Andolsek  
Vice President Leslie King  
Treasurer Leland Lau  
Secretary Linda McWeeney

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Richard Niederberg	Steven Duben	Michael Seibert	Carol Morack
Larry Brown	Linnie Murphy	Sumako Cohrs	Carolyn Sievers
Jack Evans	Cathy McCutcheon	Ron Villachica	Lenna Welling

**Past Presidents in Attendance:**

Terry McWeeney  
Dee Gadbury

**Staff in Attendance:**

CEO Sil Orlando  
Superintendent Alan Eskot  
CFO Doug Buttrick  
COO Mental Health Dept. James Gibson

**Meeting Agenda:**

Motion to accept agenda items  
1) Richard Niederberg 2) Dee Gadbury  
Motion carried with 15 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting  
1) Richard Niederberg 2) Leland Lau  
Motion carried with 17 yeas – 0 nays

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items – None Presented  
Public Comment on Agenda Items – None Presented

**Fiscal Report: Doug Buttrick**

Reported on current fiscal standing of the Charter School

Total Assets as of June 30, 2017	--	\$319,910
Total Liabilities as of June 30, 2017	--	\$207,345
Beginning Fund Balance		97,074
Current Surplus/Deficit		15,490
Total fund Balance		112,565
Total Liabilities and Equity		319,910

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1)Richard Niederberg 2)Steve Duben

Motion carried 17 Yeas - 0 Nays

**Discussion Items Requiring Action – none presented at this meeting**

**Discussion items:**

LACOE Annual Review. Superintendent Eskot gave a report on the annual review. We, of course, did very well and LACOE continues to be impressed with our school and how it is run.

**Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report**

**Current enrollment** as of Friday August 4, 2017 was 122 (131 enrolled), ADA 113 (119)

75 (81) Optimist

14 (15) Aviva – last year we averaged over twenty students

27 (20) Pacific Lodge, this is a significant increase over the past month.

6 (16) Community. We continue to have problems with some of our community attending.

Our P2 this year was 116.93 just under two less than last year but three less than what we projected for this year. Since then we have had two four week reporting periods with ADA'S of 123.89 and our last ADA of the school year was 124.47. Although this will increase our annual ADA number, we will continue to be paid for 116.93 until our next P1 submission. The first four weeks of our new semester our ADA was 109.5.

Final Report Cards: 84.63% of all the grades for students who attended 18 days or longer were passing grades. There were seven students who earned four or more fails. By subtracting all of these students' fails, our overall percentage of passing grades would go up to 88.76%. In terms of our Honor Roll, twenty students made our regular honor roll and ten made our high honor roll (all A's and B's). This was quite a high number which equates to 27% of our students earning the Honor Roll.

Graduation dinner was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 6 pm at Occidental. Overall it was an excellent evening. Many students spoke and even a parent gave a heartfelt speech. There was not a dry eye in the house.

Our Graduation for eleven students will be on Friday August 18, 2017 at 9:30 am in the gymnasium.

School will be closed for six school days: teachers will come to school a day before for training.

We are purchasing a new computer program to assist students with reading and math. It is connected with our MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing and should be overall much better than the system we are currently using. It is called PATH

Thursday August 10, 2017 will be a minimum day when we will provide training to the staff.

WASC – We received our re-certification for six years with a two day review in three years. Overall this was an excellent result.

The school calendar was distributed to all in attendance. We started our new school year on July 10, 2017. Overall it has gone well. We hired three short term employees to take over for several staff who were unable to work the first six weeks of school. Overall this went reasonably well.

Site Council: Our first meeting will be on this Wednesday. We are excited about starting these important meetings. We are hoping to have staff representation from Aviva and Pacific Lodge this year. We started our new buddy system on July 10, 2017 and it has been going very well. New students are assigned a buddy (either a site council representative or a high functioning student) their first day of school who assists them for their first ten days. It has been a lot of fun meeting the new students with their buddies and making sure that both understand our rules and expectations.

Library: It continues to look amazing and many books are being checked out on a regular basis.

Student of the Month: The monthly luncheon was held on Thursday July 27, 2017 and was for June and July. The students were great as usual.

The end of the year CASEMIS (California Special Education Management Information System) report stated that we no errors for the entire year. This has to do with getting Individual Education Plans (IIEP's) written on time.

97% of all our students have been MAP tested within a week of enrollment, which is significantly higher than last year.

In August of 2013 we applied for and were approved as an ASAM School (Alternative Schools Accountability Model). Based on our population, the average length of stay being only 4.5 months as well as historical school failure, we developed alternative ways of measuring students' progress which was accepted by the state and qualified as an ASAM School. This recently changed and is now called Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) We submitted our information and based on having over 70% of our population meeting at least one of the categories required to utilize alternative methods. 96% of our student population are Wards of the Court and the other 4% qualify as having significant academic gaps with deficit credits. Thus, instead of meeting the 70% criteria we meet the 100% criteria. Malak, our new Board President is required to sign the Certification Letter which covers us for a three year period.

We reviewed our annual LACOE report. Overall the meeting and report were excellent. They critique both the Board and the school program separately. A couple of suggestions were made for the Board which includes posting meetings and minutes on the school website as well as creating committee job descriptions. For the school they suggested monitoring our EL population, disaggregating student achievement, and amending our LCAP.

Success Stories:

Our student who was transferred from residential to living in Pomona is still coming to school on a daily basis. He is working in our cafeteria from 6:00 am to 7:30 am and is doing extremely well. We are very proud of him wanting to make this very long commute to attend our school.

We have eleven students slated to graduate on Friday August 18, 2017 at 9:30 in the gymnasium. This is an unusually high number. The ceremony will be shorter than usual since it is not the end of the semester. It should be over in about thirty minutes.

Graduate speeches were amazing on June 23, 2017, the best ever!! We had seven students graduate, one who went to public school but participated in our ceremony.

Victor a June 23, 2017 graduate was supposed to leave on July 31, 2017 to go to Pomona to volunteer for floating doctors as an interpreter.

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney  
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary