

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

Minutes of Meeting August 6, 2018
6:10 PM

Welcome and Call to Order – President Malak Kazan

Flag Salute – Vice President Dennis Andolsek

Roll Call of Board Members: President Malak Kazan

Board Officers in Attendance:

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Terry McWeeney	Jack Evans	Linnie Murphy	Deborah Kent Clark
Carol Morack	Larry Brown	Carolyn Sievers	Michael Siebert
Sumako Cohrs	Ron Villachica	Pam Duben	

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Bill Snyder
Dee Gadbury

Staff in Attendance:

CEO Sil Orlando
Superintendent Alan Eskot
Principal Lynn DeYoung
CFO Doug Buttrick
COO James Gibson
CCO Euna Ra-Smith

Meeting Agenda:

Motion to accept agenda items
1) Dennis Andolsek 2) Steve Duben
Motion carried with 15 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
1) Steve Duben 2) Leland Lau
Motion carried with 15 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

We continue to have low census in both facilities. There were 17 school days in June and our ADA was 68. It is hoped that census will begin to improve.

Total Assets as of June 30 ,2018	\$154,660
Total Liabilities as of June 30, 2018	\$367,769
Beginning Fund Balance	112,565
Current Surplus/Deficit	(326,233)
Total fund Balance	(213,668)
Total Liabilities and Equity	154,101

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1)Linnie Murphy 2)Leland Lau

Motion carried 17 Yeas - 0 Nays

Discussion Items Requiring Action

Superintendent Alan Eskot presented the revised school calendar and Instructional Minutes information. This will be for the upcoming school year. All questions regarding the revised calendar and instructional minutes were answered to everyone's agreement.

Motion to accept the School Calendar and Instructional Minutes as presented

1 – Carol Morack 2- Pam Duben

Motion Carried 17 yea – 0 no

Superintendent Alan Eskot presented the revised Board Meeting Schedule. The Charter School Board will be meeting six (6) times per year as opposed to the ten (10) meetings previously.

Motion to accept the Revised Meeting Schedule as presented

1) Terry McWeeney 2) Larry Brown

Motion carried 17 yea – 0 no

Superintendent Alan Eskot presented the EPA Expenditures material that must be submitted to LACOE. The information regarding teachers salary and Benefits along with information relation to our Title 2 funds and amounts allocated for training of staff and money used for tuition reimbursement must all be explained in the documents submitted.

Motion to accept reporting materials as presented

1)Carol Morack 2) Leslie King

Motion carried 17 yea 0 nay

Discussion Items

LACOE Annual Review

We have received an excellent review from LACOE. The report contained several pages. They do listen to all the tapes of the Board Meetings. There were very impressed with our teachers and our curriculum.

There were no corrective actions that needed to be taken.

We were advised that we did an excellent job on our LCAP. LACOE has been very helpful and supportive from the very beginning of our school. It was a six-page report that we received.

Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report

Current enrollment

LCAP Statistics:

Current enrollment as of Friday June 1, 2018, 72(80) enrolled, ADA 68 (72). Our enrollment and ADA continue to be low but stable. We are expecting it to increase once we have students from Rosemary Children Services begin to attend our school.

55 (63) Optimist

13 (15) Pac Lodge

2 (5) Community. These two students have been with us for a while and should have graduated but have not due to attendance issues. Their attendance in July greatly improved.

1 Rosemary student started last week. She had previously resided in our group home and attended our school. She should be able to graduate high school within two months.

Our minimum day this month will be on August 16, 2018

LCAP: June 21, 2018 report card status. 74.4% of all classes were passing, an improvement from previous six-week report cards with was 73%. Seventeen (twenty-one last six-week report card) students earned three or more fails. Extracting those who earned 6 or 7 fails increases our passing statistics to 82.2%. On a positive note 16 students (9 on the last report card period earned the honor roll) earned the honor roll, 23.2% which is excellent.

The first six weeks ends on Friday August 17, 2018. There will be a graduation and awards ceremony. Four students are slated to graduate with a possible fifth.

A YCC transferred to the school on July 5, 2018. He is doing an excellent job. He has a BA in English and wants to become an English teacher. One of our credentialed English teachers took the first six weeks off and will return on August 27, 2018.

School will be out for one week from August 20 to August 24, 2018 and staff will have one day of training on August 27, 2018 before we continue August 26. This will be the start of track B and both tracks A and B will be operational.

Site Council

We met on June 13, 2018 for our last meeting of the year. We had good participation. We discussed how site council can be more active with distributing information and getting homeroom participation via the suggestion box in each homeroom. We decided that for next year, beginning on July 9, 2018 every

Wednesday homerooms would set aside up to 15 minutes to discuss site council and improve participation by all. We also discussed the problem of getting residential staff to come more frequently in the future as well as improving the budding system.

Student of the Month

The monthly Student of the Month luncheon was held on Friday June 8, 2018. It was wonderful as usual. Next Student of the Month Luncheon will be held Friday August 10, 2018.

Rosemary Children Services

We had a conversation with Probation, DCFS, Mental Health, Rosemary's and Optimist several weeks ago. Everyone is interested in making sure we the appropriate channels are involved before the girls are enrolled at our school. We have accepted the first student last week and expect to have more enrolled b August 28, 2018. Superintendent Eskot is waiting to be contacted by them to go there and meet with all their staff and prospective students.

Positive Changes

We have tried three different academics on line programs to bolster students reading and math skills. The staff decided to go back to using individualized books which we had used prior to opening the charter school. These books are geared to increase reading, language/writing, and math skills and can be monitored better than the computerized programs. We have implemented this plan and so far, it is working better than the computer programs. We are hopeful that these skill books will assist our students with improving these skills. We have also implemented a change in our one-hour staff meetings to make it more engaging and develop better training/sharing. At the beginning of the meeting, staff are volunteering to present information regarding lesson plans, better use of the behavior system incorporating manipulatives into instruction, developing better strategies to reach EL, SPED, and lowers academic strategies, etc. We have started this, and it is providing more engaged and resourceful interaction.

Positive Behavior Changes

The last few months of last year were very difficult and challenging. Students were destroying property, fighting more frequently, and the tenor of the school was agitated. Since July 9 we have seen significant improvement. There have been less fights and less destruction of property. We have made some adaptation to our behavior system and the dorms have also made some changes. Overall, this coordinated effort has proven to be quite successful.

Success Stories

We have several residents who have IEP's which have nonpublic school designated as their educational program. They attend either Dubnoff or Hawthorne NSP's. One student was having a lot of trouble last February in both the dorms and the school program. A special contract was established, and he was psychiatrically hospitalized and new medication was prescribed, a one to one adult assistance was utilized and communication between the school and the dorms increased. His behavior has improved dramatically. In June he passed all his classes except for one. Last Friday he received four awards including Student of the Summer and he looks like a different man. He comes to my office regularly, when he returns from school, for a reward and is a totally different young man.