

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

Minutes of Meeting January 25, 2016
6:12 pm

Call to Order: President Dee Gadbury

Roll Call of Board Members: President Dee Gadbury

Board Officers in Attendance:

President Dee Gadbury
Vice President Malak Kazan
Secretary Linda McWeeney

Board Members in Attendance:

Steve Duben	Jesse Fox	Pam Duben	Ron Villachia
Jack Evans	Cathy McCutcheon	Richard Niederberg	Larry Brown
Ted Carter	Linnie Murphy	Lenna Welling	Jeff Morris
Sumako Cohrs			

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Immediate Past President Bill Snyder
Past President Terry McWeeney

Staff in Attendance:

Executive Director Sil Orlando
Superintendent Alan Eskot
Principal Lynn DeYoung
CFO Doug Buttrick
Assistant Executive Director Crystal Brackin

Meeting Agenda:

Motion to accept agenda items 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Steve Duben
Motion carried with 17 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting – 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Larry Brown
Motion carried with 14 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 November 30, 2015	--	\$322,315
Total Liabilities as of November 30, 2015	--	\$334,754
Beginning Fund Balance		78,875
Current Surplus/Deficit		(91,314)
Total fund Balance as of November 30, 2015		(12,440)
Total Liabilities and Equity		322,315

Motion to accept report for audit 1) Linnie Murphy 2)Richard Niederberg
Motion carried 17 Yeas - 0 Nays

Discussion Items Requiring Action

Superintendent Alan Escot and Principal Lynn DeYoung gave a very detailed report on the submission of the report to LACOE. It was submitted to LACOE and they asked for some revisions. The problem of getting appropriate staff was addressed. After revisions requested were made it was resubmitted on January 8, 2016. The report stated our unique population and how short their time with us has become. It is very hard with regard to testing and test scores because of the time they spend with us. The report was very long and involved and took many hours to complete and then revise as requested. A lengthy question and answer session followed the giving of this report that answered the many questions our board members had at this time.

Motion to accept report as submitted: 1)Richard Niederberg 2)Bill Synder
Motion carried 18 Yeas – 0 Nays

Discussion Items:

Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report:

Overall the report cards that were handed out on Jan. 22, 2016 were very good. Twenty one students made our honor roll, at least a B average. This is 19.44% of the students who received report cards. Overall 91.5% of all the grades were passing grades, 5.5 and above our last reporting period six weeks ago which was 86%. One student earned all A's and several of our students received six A's and one B. Overall our Awards and Graduation Assembly was fantastic! Many awards and a very positive response by all. We had seven students who graduated, one community student (who had previously been a residential student) and six residents. Their speeches were excellent and positive feelings were felt everywhere. Superintendent Escot distributed a list of the students who are going to be enrolling in higher education and what fields they plan to explore. Half of our students were here for six months, one was a community student who had previously been in ILP, and several were interested in the medical profession. One wants to become a doctor and another a special education teacher !!

Staffing continues to be a challenge. We are still looking to replace our PE teacher. We have a staff from Premier Temp Agency who has been with us since we came back from our vacation on January 11, 2016 and he is excellent. He has a thirty day sub permit but may qualify for an Emergency PE Credential. We may

decide to hire him from the agency; he appears to be very interested. We had another TA resign, Jose. He stated that he could not do his student teaching here, which does not make sense; however, he did not return from our vacation. We are looking at hiring a new TA. We also had another TA resign, Stephanie, her last day will be January 27, 2016. She is interested in becoming a special education teacher and got hired by a school district to work full time in special education. We wish her well. We are having a more difficult time recruiting and keeping TA's given the amount of money we are paying and also because the employment rate in California is quite low and the minimum hourly rate has gone up. Hiring qualified teachers continues to be a struggle. We have a very unique population and some of the teachers just do not meet the goals we need. Sil, Mary and I are going to look at this issue for the future

The three days of training January 4 to 6, 2016 went well. This was paid for by the PCSGP grant, the staff salaries. This is our final week for completing all of our expenditures. All of the allocated dollars for the library have been spent. We have ordered about \$22,000 worth of books. The part time librarian is working out well and has been quite helpful. We have \$18,500 to spend this week on science equipment, \$6,000 on a left-right brain software, several thousand on microscopes, and the rest will be spent on Lego computerized projects as well as other expenditures. We have \$2,500 to spend on furniture and \$4,500 on PE Equipment. All of these expenditures will be ordered this week.

Current enrollment as of last Friday January 22 was 134 students and the ADA was 124

91 Optimists

30 Aviva

13 Community, as many as eleven attending on a specific day

0 Maryvale and we have not received a referral since the first group of students enrolled.

Our SPED population is still at 33%

Last Month our ADA was the highest so far at 125.1. Our ADA for the first six months was 121.4 which is an average of 7.4 higher than our projected ADA this year of 114 which was fantastic. We have been billing for 90.6 students for the past six months and have billed just over \$616,000. Bases on our P1 of 120.9, we will be getting additional 33% more dollars for these past six months which is just over \$203,000 retroactive dollars. These six months only had 80 billable days and our next six months we will have 100 billable days which just a small amount of added expenses for salaries. At a projected ADA of 120, which was our last six months ADA these twenty additional days will produce an additional \$240,000 with less than \$40,000 in extra expenditures.

Our Student of the Month Luncheon was held on December 11 and, as usual, was great. The students are also so well behaved. Thanks again to Leland Lau for assisting with the cost of this program.

Lynn and I worked very diligently to complete the LACOE Annual Report. We sent our original version to LACOE before our vacation and they were very diligent about reviewing it and giving us feedback. We used the feedback to complete the report last Friday evening which we want to discuss.

There will be a field trip to Regal Library on February 5 from 10:30 to 3:30. We will be taking 20 students with three to four staff which we did last year. Thank you to Past Board President Gerri O'Mera

Whooping Cough. An Aviva student contracted whooping cough during our winter break. Another Aviva student got diagnosed just last Friday. We have been in contact with the Public Health Department. All of our residents and Aviva's residents had been vaccinated prior to this occurrence. We are watching over our population very carefully.

Request for payment on day of LACOE emergency closure. Sil Orlando requested that all Board Members present sign the form so that we will be paid for the day the school had to be closed. A form was sent around for the first seven Board Members to sign the form so that it can be sent back to LACOE.

Adjourn at 6:55 pm

Submitted By

Linda McWeeney
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary