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

Minutes of Meeting — January 27, 2020
5:55 PM

Welcome and Call to Order—President Steve Duben

Flag Salute— Flag Salute was led by Terry McWeeney

Roll Call of Board Members: President Steve Duben

Board Officers in Attendance:
President: Steve Duben
Vice President: Dennis Andolsek
Vice President: Linda McWeeney
Vice President: Leslie King
Treasurer: Leland Lau—not present
Secretary: Carol Simmons

Board Members in Attendance:
Larry Brown    Sumako Cohrs    Carmen Gilmore
Terry McWeeney Linnie Murphy    Michael Seibert
Carolyn Sievers Carol Truscott    Ron Villachica
Lenna Welling

Past Presidents in Attendance:
Dee Gadbury

Staff:
CEO—Sil Orlando
CCO—Euna Ra-Smith
CFO—Doug Buttrick
Superintendent—Alan Eskot

Meeting Agenda:
Motion to accept Agenda Items. Adding Form 700 that was emailed to everyone.
1. Dee Gadbury
2. Carolyn Sievers
Yes—12  No—0
Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
   1. Linda McWeeney
   2. Dee Gadbury
   Yes—12   No—0

Public Comments on Agenda Items—None Presented
Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items—None Presented

Fiscal Report: Doug Buttrick
OCS Report for December

The Charter School ADA for the month was 49.54 vs. adjusted budget of 65.20.
There were 13 school days this month.
Our ADA for December 2018 was 62.08

Revenue for the month was $102,579 and $566,797 YTD.
Expenses for the month were $67,995 and $704,184 YTD.
There was a surplus for the month of $34,584 and a deficit of ($137,388) YTD.
Cash balance at the end of the month was $231,735.
OBH contributed $16,667 in December.
We are committed to a $500K contribution in FY20.
Due to OBH balance at the end of the month was $578,371 including non-cash items.

Motion to accept financial report
   1. Terry McWeeney
   2. Carmen Gilmore
   Yes—13   No—0

SARC Approval—Alan Eskot
This is a report we have to do every year. It is a School Accountability for Report Card. Reported using data from the year 2018-2019 School Year.
This is our 7th year doing this with the state. It is as follows:

* Last year we had 11 students that graduated.
* Our attendance rate was 90 %
* There were 264—56.7% students last year.
* The composition for our African-American students was a little higher—30%, Latino students were 67.10%, and our Caucasian students were 11.4%.

* Students passing the English language was 13% and it would depend on which students were at school.

* Math is still at zero % which is a concern.

* 65.25% of students took test.

* Physical Education went down—36.4%. Going to do more motivational activities.

* Drop-out rate was discussed. Numbers were very confusing.

* Graduation Rate was discussed. Numbers were very confusing.

* Class size 2 years ago was 13.5%. Last year it was 7%

* Special Ed was 30-38%

* Overall the report was relatively good.

Motion to accept the report

1. Linnie Murphy
2. Dee Gadbury

Yes—14  No—0

The safety plan is the same as last year. It was changed as of March 2018. The plan is much more substantial for the staff and the school.

Motion to accept the plan

1. Terry McWeeney
2. Lenna Welling

Yes—14  No—0

**Board Report: Alan Eskot**

1. LCAP: Statistics: Current enrollment as of Friday, 1/24/20, 53 (53) enrolled, ADA 49 (50). Optimist OYHFS residents not attending OCS: 2 students are NPS and 4 attending other public school programs. We have been averaging around 50 students this month.
   a. 41 Optimist Residential
   b. 11 (9) Pac Lodge
   c. 1 (1) Community. The student will be graduating on Friday, 1/31.
   d. Minimum Day was on 12/19. We had a pot-luck for the holidays. A training was held to discuss making changes to our homeroom/resource room. We decided to structure the
assignments showing how to make individual work contracts using this system.

e. LCAP: Report cards will be distributed on Friday, 1/31 after the Awards and Graduation Ceremony.

f. LCAP/STAFFING: A TA who has been out for workers comp. continues to be on leave recovering.

g. LCAP/STATISTICS: There are currently 15 students receiving special education services, 29% which is low for us. For the past 4 weeks this has varied. Overall we have been averaging almost 35-38% of our student population qualifying for special education.

h. LCAP/STATISTICS: We held a small graduation ceremony on Wednesday, 1/15 for one of our residential students who was leaving before the January 31 graduation. It was a wonderful and intimate ceremony. We have 2 female students slated to graduate on Friday, 1/31. One is our only community student who used to live in our group home. The other is a Pac Lodge student.

i. The case regarding the student represented by a lawyer continues. He was discharged from the agency on Monday 1/13 and is no longer with us. Due process usually has to do with not following certain guidelines or policies. We held the student’s IEP within 30 days. His mother attended and stated she was happy with the IEP and the services and signed the IEP. We did not know that a lawyer was involved until 2 weeks ago. The lawyer is now stating that the mother has rescinded her signature. I’m not sure what they are looking for from us but in the past I believe the lawyers wanted the other school districts to qualify him for Nonpublic School. I am not clear on all of the issues. We have a better staffing ratio of most NPS’s with a positive reinforcement system. I have emailed LACOE to assist us with this but wanted to let everyone know about it.

j. Update on item (i). We have had to hire a lawyer to represent us. LACOE referred several and we chose one of them who appears to be an excellent lawyer who is only charging us $95 per hour, an incredibly good deal. Her name is Jennifer Chamberlain. There was a resolution hearing at LACOE on Wednesday, 1/15/20 which I attended by phone. There are 4 other districts who are also in the lawsuit and participated by telephone. Nothing was resolved. The next meeting will be at
LACOE on March 25th and if a resolution does not take place, a hearing will occur between May 18-20.

2. LCAP: LACOE visited us on 12/19/19 to do a physical plant review. On 1/16/2020 we received the report which was excellent overall. There were no non-compliant items. The one suggestions continues to be to build an elevator in the brick building when we do any major construction.

3. LCAP: Site Council: We held our last meeting 1/22. We had several new school representatives, one of which was a female student who had only been with us for less than 3 weeks and wanted to leave our program after her first day. We discussed the importance of the responsibilities of the representatives which includes being a buddy to new students and what that entails. Continued discussion of rewards field trips, and snacks were addressed. Field trips is definitely a desired reinforcement for our students and they are requesting them. In addition to our student of the month, I will look into instituting small field trips to deserving student in the near future. We might schedule a field trip for our honor students to the Huntington Library. Several students discussed that it is sometimes difficult to learn when students are acting out and how frustrating this can be at times. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 2/12/20.

4. Student of the Month lunch continues to be highly successful.

5. LCAP: Our 80% club continues to be an excellent incentive. We have slightly changed the way students earn extra points to make it more reinforcing. We had 8 students earn the 80% club last week, 16% of our total enrollment, but had 13 the week before, 25.5%! Our movie club continues to be reinforcing. Last week we had 15 students who made 29.4%, the most number of students since we started this program 5 months ago. Students after having 10 days above 75% get to see a moving and eat pizza.

6. Upcoming events: We have a minimum day scheduled for Thursday, to complete report cards and prepare for next semester. School will be closed on Friday, 2/7 unpaid day, and Monday 2/17 for Presidents Day.
7. Success Stories: Our small graduation for one of our residential students on 1/15 was truly heartfelt. There were about 30 staff and 5 other students from his group home that attended. He was very joyful and the entire room with was felt with sentimentality and pride. We are graduating 2 female students on Friday. One of which is a community student who transferred from our group home into an independent living apartment in August. She has had many challenges in her life, including getting her 2 year old daughter back into her custody which she did two months after leaving us. Coming to school from North Hollywood has been quite challenging as well as being a parent and a student. She has been a vocal site council representative and is so proud of herself and wants to come back as a guest speaker to our students in the future. We’re so proud of all our graduates.

Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carol Simmons
Optimist Charter School