Optimist Youth Home & Family Services
Charter School Board Meeting
Optimist Main Campus
6957 N. Figueroa Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90042
Activity Center

Minutes of Meeting – June 3, 2019
5:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order – President Malak Kazan

Flag Salute – President Malak Kazan

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 Linnie Murphy Carolyn Sievers Ron Villachica
Carol Morack Larry Brown Michael Siebert Carol Truscott
Sumako Cohrs Pam Duben Carol Morack Lenna Willing

Past Presidents in Attendance:
Bill Snyder

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) Steve Duben
  2) Terry McWeeney
     Motion Carried 14 yea– 0 nay

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
  1) Pam Duben
  2) Leland Lau
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

CFO Buttrick gave a current detail reported of the financial status of the school and what is going to be happening with the new structure of the school.

- **Total Assets as of April 30, 2019**: $394,143
- **Total Liabilities as of April 30, 2019**: $1,005,231
- **Beginning Fund Balance**: $(219,677)
- **Current Surplus/Deficit**: $(391,411)
- **Total fund Balance**: $(611,088)

**Total Liabilities and Equity**: 394,143

Motion to accept report and file for audit
1) Larry Brown 2) Carol Morack
Motion carried 14 Yeas - 0 Nays

**Discussion Items Requiring Action**

**Approval of 2018-2019 Calendar and Instructional Minutes**
Superintendent Eskot explained in detail the number of days of instruction and how many minutes are required for instruction. It is basically the same as has been previously discussed.

Motion made to accept the 2018-2019 Calendar and Instructional Minutes
1 – Leland Lau
2 – Lenna Welling
Motion Carried 15 yea – 0 no

**Approval of 2019-2020 Budget for Optimist Charter School**
Superintendent Eskot gave a detailed report relating to the budget for the school for the next year. There will be many changes to the budget and it is the goal to achieve the limits that have been set. Many cuts were made to the budget and hours were changed as well in order to meet the limits of the budget.

Motion made to accept budget for the 2019-2020 Budget for the Optimist Charter School
1 – Leland Lau
2 – Terry McWeeney
Motion Carried 15 yea – 0 no

**Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020**
The schedule of meetings for the 2019-2020 year was given to all Board Members. The schedule contains time and place for every meeting
Motion made to accept schedule as presented
1 – Sumako Cohrs
2 – Linnie Murphy
Motion carried with 15 yea – 0 no

Approval of Spring Con App
Superintendent Eskot explain in detail what the Spring Con App is and what is contain in it. It covers several areas that we have already discussed as a Board and included information on Title I and Title II and what those cover. Superintendent Eskot answered any and all questions as presented by the Board.

Motion to accept the Spring Con App as presented
1 – Leland Lau
2 – Terry McWeeney
Motion carried 15 yea - 0 no

Approval of LCAP
This is basically a yearly summary of the year, relating to highlights, graduation rate, honor roll and many other items. Superintendent Eskot explain in detail just what all the numbers mean and how our agency is different that all others because of the type of students we have and the short time they are with us. This all affects our rates compared to other school who are not dealing with the same type of students as we.

Motion to accept the LCAP as presented
1 – Steve Duben
2 – Larry Brown
Motion Carried 15 yea – 0 no

Discussion Items
Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report

LCAP: Statistics: Current enrollment as of Friday May 31, 2019 is as follows: 52 (63) enrolled, ADA 50(57). Our ADA continues to drop; however, we are being paid at our P2enrollment of 66.41.

47(49) Optimist – since we have become and STRTP program we have more students with Nonpublic school IEP’s, which necessitates placing them at another school. We currently have three students placed in an NPS 1 student in a traditional public school
3(7) Pac Lodge. Interesting statistic is that most of the students enrolling in our new assessment program are special education students with IEP’s.
1(0) Community. A female group home resident moved into an adult independent living program and is continuing to attend school and work in our cafeteria.
1(1) Rosemary’s Cottage. She is still slated to graduate in August.

Minimum Day
Tuesday May 2, 2019 was a minimum day last month. We spent the time reviewing the calendar and planning for the new school schedule starting July 5, 2019.

LCAP: Student behavior have been quite challenging these past few months, however, the past couple of
months have shown improvement. On May 6, 2019 we handed out report cards and have 14 (10) students on honor roll, 36% (25%) our highest ever! 88% (78%) of our grades were passing, which is up by 10% of the previous period and only 4 students earned three or more fails. Overall our statistics for this year are good, 22.2% honor roll 81.72%. There is only one more report card period left on June 19.

LCAP: We have three students slated to graduate in June (2 more may walk in our ceremony, students residing in our dorms and graduating from other schools) and one in August. We will have a graduation and awards ceremony on Thursday June 19 at 9:30 am in our gym.

LCAP: Staffing
Sonia, one of our secretarial support staff, retired last Friday after 14 years of excellent service. Our SDC teacher Norma will be retiring on June 19 after 24 years of dedicated service. Since telling our staff of 5 on April 12 about being laid off on June 19 all are still here and absenteeism has not significantly increased. Kudos to the dedicating of the entire school staff.

LCAP: Statistics
We currently have 22 students receiving special education services. Although this is the same amount as two months ago, given our smaller population this represents 42.3% of our total population. Last week we had a day with 54% special ed students, our highest percentage ever. Overall this represents 42.3% (34.9$) of our entire enrollment which is special education. In the state of California, the average percent of sped students in schools is between 10-12%. These last 2 months our SPED percentage has continued to be very high even though our overall ADA has been low. Thus, the STRTP’s residents clearly have more educational needs and have qualified in the past as special education students.

LCAP: Training
In January we used our minimum day to complete report card and review several behavioral incidents over the past few weeks. In February, we had a 2-hour training on LGBTQ viewing a video and having a discussion. In March we reviewed the potential schedule changes to our schedule and looking at changing our resource period. In April there was training on Trauma Informed Care.

LCAP: State Testing
We have really stepped up trying to motivate our students to take these tests as and to perform well on them. So far our efforts and reinforcement have produced better statistics so far and over 60% of our students who are required to take these exams have done so. Two of our students have already received their scores which have been in the proficient range which is excellent.

LCAP: Books
We are planning on ordering new textbooks for our science classes and replacement curriculum for a cost of about $14,000. We need to purchase more updated curriculum.

LCAP: Site Council
We continue to discuss how to get the rest of the student body more involved with the school’s policy. The Buddy System still needs to be implemented more consistently. Discussion around inappropriate behaviors at school and students refusing to follow simple instructions were also discussed. Potential field trips continue to be an agenda item. During our last meeting on March 20 there were more suggestions from several homerooms which were excellent. We discussed a plan to charge students for setting of the fire alarm in the restrooms by smoking or vaping. We also discussed appropriate consequences for students who destroy property. We also discussed the issue regarding state testing and our need for improving statistics regarding overall percentage of students taking the test and getting
higher scores. Students came up with a positive reinforcement for this which we started implementing.

Overall these meetings continue to be very productive. Our last meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday June 12 and the representatives voted to have this meeting at a restaurant.

Student of the Month Lunch
This continues to be highly successful. Since we have consolidated to six homerooms, 6 students, me and another staff eat lunch together. Each month we have a wonderful luncheon with very positive behaviors. Students are so appreciative of this field trip. Our last SOM lunch followed the distribution of report cards and we took all the students who made the honor roll and a couple of other students who had made significant improvements. This was our largest SOM in our charter school history.

LCAP: Our 80% club continues to be an excellent incentive. Last week we had 22 students (28) students who got this award which is 42.3% (44.4%) of our student population. Students must receive 80% or above for 5 days in a row to receive this honor, a certificate and a treat.

LACOE Visit
Dr. Darryl Brown our LACOE coordinator completed an onsite review on May 1, 2019. He spent several hours. He continues to be very pleased with our program and our growth. During his visit, our students were on their best behavior and engaged in their assignments. We were all very impressed.

Success Stories
Although we have a group of very challenging students, our students continue to have a great deal of success in our school program. Last reporting period 36%, one third, of our students earned the honor roll. We had our graduating dinner on May 1 in a very nice restaurant in Pasadena. Our 6 potential graduates all made it, all dressed to the 9’s. The guest speaker was a graduate from six years ago. He was extremely eloquent and moving. He has completed his AA degree and is working at a sister agency as a youth care counselor. He is also on the state committee for foster youth. Overall the evening was incredibly moving.

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney – Secretary – Optimist Charter School