

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 November 7, 2016
6:05 pm

Welcome and Call to Order – President Dee Gadbury

Flag Salute – Michael Padilla

Roll Call of Board Members: Dee Gadbury

Board Officers in Attendance:

President Dee Gadbury
Vice President Dennis Andolsek
Vice President Malak Kazan
Vice President Leslie King
Secretary Linda McWeeney
Treasurer Leland Lau

Board Members in Attendance:

Richard Niederberg	Steven Duben	Jeff Morris	Cathy McCutcheon
Larry Brown	Ron Villachica	Sumako Cohrs	Carolyn Sievers
Linnie Murphy	Lenna Welling	Pam Duben	

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Terry McWeeney

Staff in Attendance:

CEO Sil Orlando
Assistant Executive Director Crystal Brackin
Superintendent Alan Eskot
CFO Doug Buttrick
COO James Gibson

Meeting Agenda:

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

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
1) Richard Niederberg 2) Leslie King
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 September 30, 2016 -- \$270,290
Total Liabilities as of September 30, 2016 -- \$172,027

Beginning Fund Balance 97,074
Current Surplus/Deficit 1,189
Total fund Balance 98,263

Total Liabilities and Equity 270,290

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1)Richard Niederberg 2)Lennie Murphy

Motion carried 17 Yea - 0 Nay

Discussion Items Requiring Action

None

Discussion Items

Superintendent Alan Eskot Gave the Following Report

Current enrollment as of Friday November 4, 2016 was 124. ADA was 118.

- 1) 86 (90) Optimists
- 2) 19 (24) Aviva
- 3) 13 (17) Pac Lodge
- 4) 6 (8) Community

Overall ADA for our first twenty (20) days was 111.73 and our second nineteen reporting days ADA was 125.63 for nineteen days. The total ADA for our first thirty-nine days of school is 118.50, just 1.5 off of our budgeted one hundred twenty. This should definitely pick up since we have incorporated more Pac Lodge students with more to come in the future. During October, our highest enrolled was one hundred forth three with an ADA of one hundred thirty six. On October 24, 2016 we had an ADA of one hundred thirty five. Since then our enrollment has significantly dropped to one hundred twenty four last Friday with and ADA of one hundred eighteen. Our hope is that our census will pick up again.

College Readiness Block Grant.

Superintendent Eskot gave all present a handout outlining the spending of the grant funds. Will be discussed at the December meeting.

Staffing:

Brian, our auto shop teacher, is a great staff so far. He is teaching two periods of auto shop at the present time. Our SPED population as of Friday was fourth three SPED students with twenty three in our SDC program and twenty RSP, with is 35% of our total population. We hired a second English Credentialed teacher who has experience working with Special Education Students. She is being trained by our SDC teacher and our English

teacher. When our census goes up again, she will be taking over one or two English classes and assisting in the SDC classroom the other periods.

Academic Focus

Our academic focus this year is on Building vocabulary throughout the school. Each room has the words posted and we are exploring different methods to assist students with learning these words.

Site Council:

We had our second meeting of the year on October 12 and will hold our next meeting on Wednesday November 9, 2016 with student elected representatives. Overall the meeting was excellent. We again reviewed the purpose of the Site Council, the role of the student and staff representatives, how to communicate what we have discussed, and came up with a list of concerns. Based on the Site Council's request, we added buttoned down shirts to our OCS dress code, in appropriate colors only. The representatives were very happy about this and felt empowered. They brought lists with agenda items from their homerooms which was great. Other issues brought up were having field trips, having a t-shirt day once a month, and several other issues. It was quite a lively discussion and there was so much discussion that we needed an extra ten minutes.

Library

Over fifty students have now completed reading books and turning in their book reports. They earn five hundred points for each book report and will receive a \$5 gift card after five book reports are turned in. We are having our students assist with ordering new books for the library, getting their input, and have just ordered about \$1500 worth of books from our \$12,500 grant.

Parent/Student Handbook

The Parent/Student Handbook is finalized in Spanish and we will be posting it on our website very soon.

Progress Report Cards

The progress cards were distributed on October 14, 2016. 88% of our grades were passing, (which is D's or above). Seventeen students made our regular honor roll and ten made our high honor roll with all A's and B's. This represented 23% of all the progress reports for students who had been with us for ten days or longer. That is one of the highest percentages we have had.

LACOE Visit

Indra from LACOE visited on Thursday October 27, 2016 and was here for several hours. Overall he continues to be impressed with our program. He did see that all of our classrooms and noticed our bulletin boards with vocabulary words in each classroom. He suggested looking at some research as to how to best teach our students these vocabulary words and he sent us an article that we are currently reviewing. He also suggested we look at our LCAP and make some updates and revisions which Lynn and I will do.

Upcoming Graduates:

In January

Nine students (two of which are slated for this December)

Eight are AB216 and one regular diploma

In June

Thirty two are slated to graduate.

Twenty five are AB216 and seven regular diplomas

Total potential graduates for this school year is currently forty one, almost double what we have had in the past. This will change over the course of the year, however. We are excited about these potential graduates.

Election

We are doing a school wide election tomorrow. We have made up a sample ballot for the students to use.

Level System

We are making a change to our level system. In addition to getting a percentage for student's behavior at the end of the day, we will be adding a grade to this percentage. It will be as follows:

89% or above	A
78-88	B
67-77	C
50-66	D

This was started on Monday October 31, 2016.

Halloween:

We had parties in all homerooms from 1:00 pm to 2:20 pm. Some staff and students got dressed up. Next year we will have a shorter period for the party.

Tri-Terms

Tri-Terms are this Thursday November 10, 2016, Monday November 14, 2016 and Wednesday November 15, 2016. We hope to have progress reports out by Friday November 18, 2016

Veterans' Day

The school will be closed for Veterans' Day.

Thanksgiving

On Wednesday November 16, 2016 we will have our Pre-Thanksgiving lunch. Students and staff will eat together in shirts and school staff will be serving in the lunch line. It is a minimum day so all students will be gone by 1:00 pm and we will be having staff training. School will be closed from November 21 to November 25, 2016 for the Thanksgiving break. School staff are paid for two of these days.

Former Student

Superintendent Eskot read a report from a former student thanking Optimist for helping her to become what she is now.

Meeting Adjourned 6:30 pm

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney
Secretary – Optimist Charter School Board