

Optimist Youth Home & Family Services
Charter School Board Meeting
4900 Serrania Ave.
Woodland Hills
Activity Center Training Room
Minutes of Meeting November 6, 2017

Welcome and Call to Order – President Malak Kazan 5:58 PM

Flag Salute – Dennis Andolsek

Roll Call of Board Members: President Malak Kazan

Board Officers in Attendance:

President Malak Kazan
Vice President Steve Duben
Vice President Dennis Andolsek
Vice President Leslie King
Secretary Linda McWeeney

Board Members in Attendance:

Richard Niederberg	Michael Seibert	Terry Mcweeney	Sumako Cohrs
Larry Brown	Linnie Murphy	Carolyn Sievers	Carol Morack
Ron Villachica	Deborah Kent Clark	Lenna Welling	

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Dee Gadbury
Bill Snyder

Staff in Attendance:

CEO Sil Orlando
Superintendent Alan Eskot
CFO Doug Buttrick
COO Mental Health Dept. James Gibson
CCO Euna Ra-Smith

Meeting Agenda:

Motion to accept agenda items
1) Dee Gadbury 2) Richard Niederberg
Motion carried with 16 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
1) Richard Niederberg 2) Dennis Andolsek
Motion carried with 16 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 August 31, 2017	--	\$223,052
Total Liabilities as of August 31, 2017	--	\$193,384
Beginning Fund Balance		112,565
Current Surplus/Deficit		<u>(82,897)</u>
Total fund Balance		29,668
Total Liabilities and Equity		223,052

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1)Dee Gadbury 2)Linnie Murphy

Motion carried 16 Yeas - 0 Nays

Discussion Items Requiring Action

None presented at this meeting

Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report

Current enrollment

Current enrollment as of Friday November 3, 2017 was 101 (109) enrolled. Our enrollment and ADA continues to fall. Last month our ADA was 91.2 and we had previously been operating at just over 100. We discovered on Friday that Aviva Center is closing their residential program and should have all girls removed within the next four weeks. They have had a lot of problems this part year as I have reported to the board. We have averaged between 9 to 10 ADA from Aviva since July 10. After the holidays, CEO Sil Orlando and I will explore other potential options regarding potentially recruiting another group home to attend our school.

66 (70) Optimist

9 (14) Aviva. Last year we averaged over twenty students

19 (17) Pacific Lodge. This is a significant increase over last month.

7 (9) Community

Second six week report cards for Track A, first six week report cards for Track B: they were distributed on October 10, 2017. Not our best report cards. 78% of our grades were passing and ten students made the honor roll, 5 the regular honor roll and 5 the high honor roll. We had far fewer students who had been here for these six weeks so the honor roll is basically the same percentage as our first six week report cards, between 14-16%, but is down from our average of 20-25% in the past.

School will be closed on Friday, November 10 for Veteran's Day and the week of Thanksgiving November 20 to 24, three days as unpaid. Three staff will be taking Pro Act during that time.

Thursday October 26 was a minimum day and all staff had training on Anti bullying and our new computer remedial English and Math Program, which is called My Path. Our next minimum day training will be on Thursday November 16, 2017.

Lynn and I will be attending on Wednesday November 15, 2017 to attend a two day conference in San Diego.

ISSUES AT SCHOOL

The tenor of the school has improved this past month.

STAFFING

We are still looking for a social studies teacher. We interviewed a new candidate last week who, unfortunately, was not interested in the position. We did hire a TA with a BA degree in math which we have been looking to hire for many months. He is doing well so far. We have interviewed a candidate last week that might work out. She wants to work part time, 5 hours a day, which might work for us. We currently are utilizing our staff that also has a social science and history credential and has been taking over the classes. Our Art teacher is taking a six week leave. We are closing the computer lab for these six weeks as computers are not a required class, and having our computer teacher take over the Art classes. He has an MA in art himself.

Site Council

Our next meeting will take place on the second Wednesday of the month which is this Wednesday November 8, 2017. At our last meeting we discussed our Buddy System and making it occur more consistently. Additionally, we discussed upcoming field trips, behavior issues at school, dress code (top buttons cannot be buttoned), etc.

Library

Continues to look amazing and many books are being checked out regularly.

Student of the Month

Our Student of the Month Lunch was held on Friday November 3, 2017. Students were great as always.

Performance Evaluations

We are up to date with all staff performance evaluations and have three to do this month.

LACOE School Visit

On October 12, 2017 we had three LACOE staff visit our school program on an official visit. Everyone was very impressed with our mission and our program. On Thursday November 3, 2017 we had an official visit from our LACOE Coordinator Darryl Brown. He was here for over two hours. He was very impressed with our school program. He appreciated and understood our challenging population and after taking a tour was totally impressed with our physical plant, our teaching staff, and the entire program.

Disproportionality

Disproportionality with our special education statistics. Lynn and I are working on a Performance Indicator Review for CDE. We hope to have it completed within this month. It is not officially due until January of 2018. We are also involving our LAC SELPA director as requested.

Graduation

On Friday, December 1, 2017 we will have our Track A first semester Awards and Graduation Ceremony from 9:30 – 10:30 am in our gym. We currently have 2 students slated to graduate and three also scheduled for January 26, 2018. Please come to this important ceremony if you can!

Success Stories

A student who had previously been in our NPS program for almost a year transferred to Dubnoff and is now attending Valley College part time during his 12th grade studies. He has done incredibly well. He called me last week to let me know that he still missed being at Optimist and is very proud of himself

MAP

Several of our students have retested in MAP and have gone from 1 to 4 grade levels in either English or Math. Our best report card was a girl from Aviva who received all A's, and four of those were A+

Superintendent Eskot also spoke on the changes in the credits students need to graduate. It will be going from 220 credits to 210.

Next meeting will be on December 4, 2017 at the main Optimist Campus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney
Secretary – Charter School Board