

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

Minutes of Meeting October 2, 2017
6:06 PM

Welcome and Call to Order – President Malak Kazan

Flag Salute – Terry McWeeney

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
Treasurer Leland Lau
Secretary Linda McWeeney

Board Members in Attendance:

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

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) Richard Niederberg 2) Bill Snyder
Motion carried with 17 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting
1) Dee Gadbury 2) Richard Niederberg
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 August 31, 2017	--	\$236,939
Total Liabilities as of August 31, 2017	--	\$160,139
Beginning Fund Balance		112,565
Current Surplus/Deficit		(35,765)
Total fund Balance		76,800
Total Liabilities and Equity		236,939

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1)Richard Niederberg 2)Dee Gadbury

Motion carried 17 Yeas - 0 Nays

Discussion Items Requiring Action

Textbook Approvals (Public Hearing)

1. Alan explained that the law requires that there be a public hearing annually regarding the need for the school board of the district to certify that the school has sufficient textbooks both in the classrooms and available for the students to take home. Given that I am furnishing the following information: All students have access to textbooks in the classroom and at their homes. We continually make sure we have at least enough textbooks for a student to use at school as well as at home. Are there any questions for us?

Malak: Therefore in accordance with the law given that there is no one present from the public for this public hearing which was posted with a ten day notice I am seeking a motion to certify that our textbooks are sufficient to meet the demands of the law.

1)Richard Niederberg 2)Steve Duben

Motion Carried with 19 yeas – 0 nays

2. **Dashboard for Alternative School Status (DASS):** I presented this information in our August meeting. I did not realize at that time that it was supposed to be an Action Item as part of our application. We have sent everything to DAAS except the copy of these minutes showing this plan was voted and approved by the board, which must be done by 10/6. A reminder that until this year we had been approved for ASAM, Alternative School Accountability Model, which allowed our school to look at other alternative statistics to show students are making progress at our school and that we are being successful. Some of these items include the following:
 - A. 82% of all courses are passed annually; we review this every six week reporting period.
 - B. 50% of all students who are enrolled for 5 months or longer will improve in Reading and/or Math scores.

Additionally, we look at other factors such as the number of 12th graders with enough credits who are enrolled for 6 months or longer who graduate H.S., our student absenteeism rate, number of students on our honor roll, etc.

We will continue to monitor these statistics for DAAS. We qualify for DASS since 100% of our students are either foster youth, 96%, or have been failing classes in their previous schools, 4%.

Malak: Can we have a motion to approve the DASS information as presented:

A motion was made to accept the report given by Superintendent Eskot regarding the DASS system and how we apply it to our student population

1)Richard Niederberg 2) Linnie Murphy

Motion carried with 19 yeas – 0 nays

Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report

Current enrollment as of Friday September 29, 2017 was 108 (110 enrolled), ADA 88 (97) our enrollment and ADA continues to fall. Given the fact that our ADA has been low for several months, we have thought of exploring the idea of approaching another group to participate in enrolling students in our school program. We have decided not to approach another group home at this time based on the behavior problems we have recently been having with our current population. It has been an extremely difficult time dealing with these issues. The option will be reviewed again in the future.

70 (71) Optimist

14 (12) Aviva – last year we averaged over twenty students

15 (21) Pacific Lodge, this is a significant decrease over last month.

9 (7) Community

Second six week report cards:

The second six week report cards will be distributed on Tuesday October 19, 2017. Tri terms will start this Thursday and will also be on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

School will be closed on Friday October 6, 2017 and also on Monday October 9, 2017. Both will be unpaid days for school staff.

Thursday September 21, 2017 was minimum day and all staff had great two hour training in LGBTQ issues. Our next minimum day training will be on Thursday October 16, 2017. We were originally going to have an anti-bully training but had to re-schedule this based on more pressing educational issues including training on our new computer program, My Path, which is our educational program to assist students with increasing math and reading skills.

Issues at school in these past four weeks has been extremely challenging and problematic. There have been too many altercations, sometimes three in a day, and students have been very challenging and unwilling to follow directions of any sort. A week ago today on September 25, 2017, we had a meeting with RBS staff, Administrative Staff from Pac Lodge and Aviva over the phone, and the three school administrators to discuss these issues and see how we can make positive changes. Here are some of the ideas we have come up with:

- 1) If a student is suspended and is not following any rules or not staying from the school, the student will be transported to their group home or dorm

- 2) When students are being repeatedly problematic, a meeting with a representative from school and the residential program with the student will take place.
- 3) Students will not be allowed to exchange money (points) for items from the student store (behavior) during a week when they have had one school day at 50% or less or have been suspended from school for longer than one period. Their student store and point money will be held for the following week.
- 4) Infusing more positive situations into the school program. We have received a grant so that we can have at least four educational field trips this year which should have a positive impact on school behavior as they will have to earn the right to go on the field trips.
- 5) Possibly have group reinforcers for collective behaviors from each dorm/group home, etc. to provide additional reinforcement
- 6) Aviva has agreed to send a supervisorial staff several times a week for a few hours to help with stability of their students

We completed our Excess Cost Allocation for Special Education last Friday. Tammy and I worked on this to make it as accurate as possible. Each year we are required to spend more money on SPED services, which we always do.

Staffing

We are still looking for a social studies teacher. We interviewed a new candidate last week, and they were not interested. We did hire a TA with a BA degree in math which we have been looking to hire for many months. He started last week. We will continue to look for another social studies teacher; however, we have the position filled with current staff.

Site Council

Our next meeting will take place on the second Wednesday of the month on October 11, 2017 and we will discuss out of control behaviors on campus, the Buddy System, 12 week report card statistics, suggestion items, LACOE reauthorization information, and other items as they surface.

Library

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

Student of the Month

The monthly luncheon will be held this Thursday October 5, 2017, since the school is closed on Friday.

LACOE

We have submitted all updated documentation as required by LACOE for this school year

Lynn and Alan went to an all-day LACOE training on September 22, 2017. We got to meet our new coordinator who seems very helpful and was very informed about us and the school. There were multiple presentations with some very important information including the new state Dashboard system, LCAP, EL students and legal issues regarding them, etc. Overall, I was quite useful.

Disproportionality with our Special Education Statistics

The state is comparing statistical data for this year for the 2015-2016 school year, the first time this has been done. I discussed this last month. I tried to explain the statistical problems that we saw with the way they calculated this information for OCS. This is a federal law so there is not much flexibility. In any case, we were able to make changes but were still found to be disproportional with the number of African American, Latino/Latina and Caucasian special education students who were suspended. Based on this, the CDE needed to review two IEP'S on students who were here in December of 2016 who are still here. We have been

cleared of any potential problems with our IEP'S. However we have to develop a plan by November 31, 2017 on how to improve these issues and then follow up with the implementation of this plan. It is going to be very difficult to establish a plan which will show any particular change given our population and its constant revolving door situation. Part of the plan will include me, the superintendent, to review all SPED suspensions and to discuss alternative ways of dealing with these situations. Additionally, we may develop and in house suspension for SPED students.

We will be having an unofficial visit by LACOE on October 12, 2017 from approximately 10:30 till noon; it was rescheduled from September 28, 2017.

Success Stories

A student who was supposed to graduate last January finally completed his work and handed it in last week and received his diploma. Another previous graduate that we have talked about before, Victor P, came in last week with all A's and B's from Dominguez Hills College. He has two more years to go to earn his BA degree. He was able to pick up an additional \$200 to assist with is books out of our scholarship fund.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney
Charter School Board Secretary