

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

Minutes of Meeting October 1, 2018  
6:00 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 – Absent  
Treasurer – Leland Lau  
Secretary Linda McWeeney

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Terry McWeeney	Jack Evans	Linnie Murphy	Lenna Welling
Carol Morack	Larry Brown	Carolyn Sievers	Michael Siebert
Sumako Cohrs	Ron Villachica	Pam Duben	

**Guest:**

Richard Nieberberg

**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) Bill Snyder 2) Dennis Andolsek  
Motion carried with 15 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting

1) Terry McWeeney 2) Carol Morack

Motion carried with 15 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

We continue to have low census in both facilities. The ADA for August was 69.41 and there were 17 school days. It is our continued hope that the census will continue to climb with the addition of Rosemary’s Cottage students.

Total Assets as of August 31, 2018 \$204,197

Total Liabilities as of August 31, 2018 \$506,210

Beginning Fund Balance (219,677)

Current Surplus/Deficit ( 82,336)

Total fund Balance (302,013)

Total Liabilities and Equity 204,197

Motion to accept report and file for audit

1) Steve Duben 2) Terry McWeeney

Motion carried 15 Yeas - 0 Nays

**Discussion Items Requiring Action**

Motion carried 17 yea 0 nay

**Discussion Items**

Superintendent Eskot explained the guidelines in ordering new textbooks for the students. There are several steps that are taken to ensure that we order the best available for our students. We look at the books that other schools are currently using or are ordering, and we also take into consideration the input from our own staff of instructors. We have currently replaced the history books, and next time we are looking at replacing the English and math books.

Motion was made to approve purchase of said textbooks

1) Linnie Murphy 2) Dennis Andolsek

**Superintendent Alan Eskot gave the following report**

**Current enrollment**

LCAP Statistics:

Current enrollment as of Friday September 27, 2018. 77 (75) enrolled, ADA 62 (72). Our enrollment and ADA continue to be low and the students we do have are very challenging. We will be working with our Ex Ed representative to redevelop a new budget given the fact that our ADA is more than 20% below what we had anticipated.

53 (60) Optimist

16 (12) Pacific Lodge

2 (2) Community - These two students have been with us for a while and should have graduated but now not due to attendance issues. Their attendance in July greatly improved, however, August and September's attendance has decreased significantly.

6 (1) Rosemary's Cottage student who started last week. She had previously resided in our group home and attended our school and graduated on September 21, 2018.

Our minimum day last month was on September 20 and will be on October 18 this month.

### **LCAP:**

August 17 report card statistics for the first six weeks: 89.2% (74.4% of all classes were passing, a 15% increase from previous six-week report cards. Five (17) students 3 or more fails, this was a very significant decrease. No students earned 6 or 7 fails and only one student earned 5 fails. On an extremely positive note, 20 (16 students last reporting period earned the honor roll) earned the honor roll, an amazing 35% (23.2%) which is our highest percentage of honor roll in our charter school's history! Of those students who earned the honor roll, 25% were Caucasian, 20% African American and 55% Latino. 15% of the honor roll were SPED students and 25% were EL. Our 5 graduates were 20% Caucasian, 20% African American and 60% Latino. 20% were SPED and 0% EL.

### **LCAP:**

On August 17 we had our first graduation/awards ceremony of this year. As noted above, we had our highest honor roll percentage ever. Five students walked during our graduation ceremony, one had to complete his course work on September 21, 2018 which he did. Four of the students had been in our program for four to five months and one for 11 months. It was an amazing ceremony with many parents and relatives attending.

### **LCAP/STAFFING**

Our second English teacher who was supposed to return in August got another job. We have frozen her position given our low census. The YCC who transferred to us on July 6 left last week due to issues with his personal life. We have frozen that position as well. Our previous history teacher, who had been with us for 3.3 years left us in August of 2017 has come back to work part time at 4 hours per day. We are glad to have her back. We have been having a difficult time with our history classes and our current teacher and hope having her back to assist will make a significant difference.

### **LCAP/STATISTICS**

Last year we enrolled 369 students: 68 students were enrolled in SPED services. 31 students designated for Resource Specialist Program services (RSP) and 37 Special Day Classroom services (SDS). We have two full time special education teachers who deliver both services.

### **LCAP/TRAINING**

We had one day of training on August 27. We reviewed unit plans, room prep, note taking, EL and SPED review. On our minimum day in September, which was September 22, we had training from Maria B. on Active Shooter as well as training on how to fully implement our individualized curriculum during resource/homeroom. It was presented by Henry S our RSP teacher. Principal DeYoung and I went to an all day LACOE workshop/training on September 27. Overall it was excellent. We have to do some additional additions to our LACP as well as updating policies and procedures as relating to AB 699, additional protection for immigrant status, national origin, or religious policies.

### **LCAP/SITE COUNCIL**

We met twice, on August 15 and September 12. Case managers are now coming to this meeting. It is five additional staff. Overall, we have had good participation. We discussed how site council can be more active with distributing information and getting homeroom participation via the suggestion box in each homeroom. Every Wednesday homerooms are setting aside up to 15 minutes to discuss site council and improve participation by all. We also discussed improving the buddy system and reviewed the new documents. We also changed one of our dress code items and are now allowing students to button the top bottom of their polo shirts.

### **STUDENT OF THE MONTH LUNCH**

It was held on September 7 and the next one will be held on October 4, since school is closed on Friday. This continues to be a very positive experience for the students and the staff.

### **LCAP/ROSEMARY'S COTTAGE**

We enrolled one student who had previously attended OCS and she graduated on September 21. Seven other students started on August 28. I met with their administrative team in July and met the rest of their larger team in August to explain our system so that we could provide coordinated services. They are sending over the same staff on Monday through Wednesday and other staff on Thursdays and Fridays. I will be meeting with their Director of Residential tomorrow to review our progress and make necessary changes. We were expecting many more referrals but according to their Director, Probation is placing a road block and wanting Rosemary's to send these students to other schools in Pasadena.

### **LCAP**

Positive changes for this school year. The staff came up with a new Academic Goal for this year which is improving study skills which also incorporates outlining and note taking during classes. We are also adapting these skills to assist EL, SPED and lower academic functioning students. The staff also developed a more user-friendly document for our buddy system. (The new form was given to all Board Members present) Additionally, we have added student of the week as a reinforcer, 500 points and an award, and establish an 80% club for all students who earn 80% or more for the entire week. These students are receiving 250 points and a treat. (Board members were given a sample of the worksheet) For the past four weeks since implementation we have been averaging about 10 students who have earned the 80% Club weekly which is about 15% of our ADA.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR CHANGES**

Our first six weeks of the new school year were much improved. Unfortunately, since then, we are having a great deal of acting out behavior like what we experienced last April through June. We are coming up with solutions to this in our ET meetings. The level of disturbance of our STRTP students continues to be significant and quite challenging.

### **SUCCESS STORES:**

Superintendent Eskot distributed a success story from one of our students. It is always a "feel good" moment to hear what some of students accomplish and think of their time at Optimist.

Submitted by

Linda McWeeney  
Secretary  
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary