

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

October 5, 2015  
6:00 pm

**Call to Order:** President Dee Gadbury

**Roll Call of Board Members:** President Dee Gadbury

**Board Officers in Attendance:**

President Dee Gadbury  
Vice President Dennis Andolsek  
Secretary Linda McWeeney

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Steve Duben	Jesse Fox	Pam Duben	Ron Villachia
Jack Evans	Cathy McCutcheon	Richard Niederberg	
Ted Carter			

**Past Presidents in Attendance:**

Past President Terry McWeeney

**Staff in Attendance:**

Executive Director Sil Orlando  
Superintendent Alan Askot  
CFO Doug Buttrick  
Assistant Executive Director Crystal Bracken

**Meeting Agenda:**

Motion to accept agenda items 1) Richard Niederberg 2)Cathy McCutcheon  
Motion carried with 11 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting – 1)Richard Niederberg 2)Steve Duben  
Motion carried with 11 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 – a full school month in August. Our ADA was 119.58 up from our budget of 114.

Total assets as of August 2015  
Total Assets as of August 31, 2015 -- \$223,793  
Total Liabilities as of August 31, 2015 -- \$203,436

Beginning Fund Balance	78,875
Current Surplus/Deficit	(58,517)
Total fund Balance as of August 31, 2015	20,357
Total Liabilities and Equity	223,793

Motion to accept report for audit 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Terry McWeeney – Motion Carried

**Discussion Items**

**Superintendent Alan Askot gave the following report:**

Our ADA so far, over the first 16 days is 119.63, which is a 98.61% attendance as reported to LACOE. Our budget is based on 114 ADA so we are ahead of our projected numbers. Our current enrollment as of today, October 5, 2015, is 119 students.

- a. 26 of our students are from Aviva
- b. 1 Maryvale student
- c. 6 community students
- d. 86 Optimist students

Overall we have one third of our students who are female and one third are special education.

Lynn and I went to the LACOE training on 9/17/2015 and it was excellent. We have revised the Parent/Student Handbook and will be revising our LCAP based on the feedback that we have received. Overall it was an excellent training.

Our first six week progress reports will be distributed tomorrow October 6, 2015.

We are awaiting written confirmation regarding the \$19,000 grant for the auto shop before we start spending the money.

This Friday October 9, 2015 we will have our “Student of the Month Luncheon”. If anyone is interested in attending we would love to have you. It is at Coco’s on York Street, just west of Figueroa.

Issues with Maryvale. I met with eight of their residential staff on September 19. Overall the training went well. Issues regarding their staff’s supervision of our other students arose. We currently only have one of their students who has some mental health issues and has not been attending regularly. I am working on an MOU to send to Maryvale this week. Their administration assures us that they will be sending additional students.

Lynn and I are working on the paperwork required for Title 1 funding. It is approximately \$40,000 this year. We are anticipating completing this by the end of the month.

On Thursday October 29, 2015 we have an upcoming LACOE visit with our new LACOE representative Jean Law. We had the opportunity to meet her at our training. In addition, another representative from LACOE will be attending.

Sil Orlando and I are going to the LACOE Board meeting tomorrow, October 6, 2015, to thank them for authorizing us just over two years ago on September 26, 2013, which was our opening day. Additionally, we will be going over some of our success stories over the past two years of operation.

So far incidents and suspensions are down from this time last year, continuing the trend of last year as being down from the previous year. This is due to good teachers (both experienced staff and new staff), good Behavior Specialists, and improved communication between Residential and School and a focus by the residential facility on school performance. Additionally, we have 50% more students than last year at this time.

CAASP results have come in Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA, both Math and ELA). Thirty one students took the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). Overall our test scores were not very good which is not surprising given our population and the fact that most of our students have been with us for such a short period of time. Our best statistic from the testing is that 91.4% of our 11<sup>th</sup> graders took the exam. Generally our students have done very poorly on standardized testing in the past and this test confirms this. It should also be noted that our student's average attendance in our school is from four to six months and many of the students who took this test had been with us for less than one month.

Our six community students continue to have problems with absenteeism and coming in late. We are developing a behavioral incentive to improve these two issues.

The hardships of taking several busses to get to school was discussed.

**Discussion Items Requiring Action:**

During the training session at LACOE we discovered that we needed to update our Parent/Student Handbook. Several changes will be made including our website. Noting that LACOE is our advisor. On each page will be listed our website with our phone number. Also on page five (5) will be our Administrators, Lynn as Principal, David as Vice-Principal, Alan as Superintendent, and also Sil Orlando. It was also decided that we need to have the handbook translated into Spanish as over 50% of our population are Spanish. We are going to make a two page fact sheet that will contain the most important items, or most frequently asked questions.

Motion was made to accept the Items Requiring Acting 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Pam Duben  
Motion Carried 11 yeas - 0 Nays.

Next Meeting – Monday November October 2, 2015

Adjourn: 6:28 pm

Submitted by  
Linda McWeeney  
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary