

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

November 2, 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 Malak Kazan  
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	Larry Brown
Ted Carter	Linnie Murphy	Lenna Welling	Sumako Cohrs

**Past Presidents in Attendance:**

Immediate Past President Bill Snyder  
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) Steve Duben  
Motion carried with 11 yeas - 0 nays

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting – 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Sumako Cohrs  
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 September.

Total Assets as of September 20, 2015 -- \$261,049  
Total Liabilities as of September 30, 2015 -- \$145,951

Beginning Fund Balance	78,875
Current Surplus/Deficit	36,223
Total fund Balance as of September 30, 2015	115,098
Total Liabilities and Equity	261,049

Motion to accept report for audit 1) Terry McWeeney 2)Richard Niederberg  
 Motion carried 11 Yeas - 0 nays

**Discussion Items**

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

Overall the report cards that were handed out on October 9, 2015 were very good. Thirteen students would have made our Honor Roll (a B average without any D's or F's) and 14 would have made out High Honor Roll (all A's and B's). This is fantastic that 27 of our students would have been on an Honor Roll, 22.68% of our population. Overall, 88.2% of all of the grades were passing grades, 8.2% above our goal of 80%. Several of our students received six A's and one B. Overall an excellent reporting period. Great work staff and students.

Two of our Teacher Aids left us. One was brand new and could not manage working and going to graduate school for her credential. The other one was here for fourteen months and got offered a great job back in Philadelphia where he was from originally. We have been recruiting and have been having a great deal of difficulty finding replacements. We are now working with a new Temp Agency who has sent us one credentialed sub for today and will be sending another in two days. We will utilize these credentialed subs until we hire their replacements. We are in the process of converting a teacher from Teachers On Reserve, who has been with us since August 19. He has a Multiple Subject Credential with a Social Science add on and will be trying to take the CSET to add on Algebra. He will be working as a teacher/TA. We are hoping this change will occur by the end of the week. We will have to pay Teachers on Reserve an annual 2% commission which is a relatively small amount of money, and should be less than \$700.

School will be closed on Wednesday November 11, 2015 for Veterans' Day and the entire week of Thanksgiving November 23 through November 27, 2015.

Tri-Term exams will be on November 9, 10 and 12. Our second progress report cards will be handed out on Tuesday November 17, 2015.

Our current enrollment is 132 students, our highest ever

- 1: 96 Optimists
- 2: 28 Aviva
- 3: 7 Community
- 4: 1 Maryvale – she has not attended for weeks due to frequent psychiatric hospitalizations.
- 5: Our SPED population is at 36 students which is 27.6% of our population. Twelve of these students are enrolled in our Special Day Classroom which was opened on April 13.

On October 21, 2015, our minimum day, the school staff completed our second three hour training on LGBTQ. It was an excellent training and none too soon since we have accepted our first transgender student a few weeks ago.

Thanksgiving Mission Project is starting. Every year, for over 15 years, our agency has asked students and staff to contribute money and make cards for the Mission for Thanksgiving. Students are allowed to contribute up to \$3.00 from either their point money or their student store account. Whatever is collected by staff and students, I then match this amount and we hand deliver the cards to the Mission before Thanksgiving. It is an excellent way for all of us to give back to our community. This will be the third year that we are doing this from the OCS.

Halloween was celebrated last Friday. We had small parties during our thirty minute resource period. Some of our students dressed up. We had cupcakes during this time and then distributed bags of candy at the end of the day. Overall it was a positive day.

P1 statistics are important. We have been accruing payment based on our last year's P2 which was 90.4 for this year. Our P1 for this year will be reported by January 4, 2016 and will become our new billable number, it will be an average for 70 billable days ending December 11, 2015, and will allow us to bill retroactively for the difference and will continue to be our billable ADA until we submit our P2, around April 1, and then the difference will either be paid or subtracted retroactively. Our ADA from August 19 to October 30 is 118.06, 4.06 higher than we budgeted for. Our financial statements show only our billable rate of 90.4. Thus, we will be getting retroactive payment, in the future, of about \$95,000 for this time frame

Three staff from LACOE visited us last Thursday October 29, 2015 from 8:30 arrivals until 12:00 noon. There is a new LACOE staff, Indra, who may become our new LACOE contact. All three staff were very pleased with our program and were very impressed with our staff and students.

**Here is content of the email received:**

*Thank You for hosting the LACOE CSO team at Optimist School Today. We appreciate your hospitality and willingness to engage in candid conversation regarding the successes and challenges facing your team*

*We were able to touch upon various facets of operational components such as: staffing, facilities, enrollment, special education services, technology, and instructional materials. Additionally, we discussed some of the difficulties in obtaining accurate pre and post test results due to the nature of your student population. I encourage you to continue to explore ways to collect useful academic data (apart from the ASAM indicators you have identified), and also to continue efforts in refining best practices with regard to assessing students (for example, you mentioned that small group or one-on-one is generally more effective than testing in classrooms).*

*For me, the highlight of the visit was walking through classrooms and hearing directly from the students their appreciation for the supportive atmosphere the school provides. One particular student in the Art Class was so proud to show off his work and articulated his credits status and progress toward graduation. The resources in your classrooms (new textbooks, technology carts, furniture) provide an enriching physical atmosphere, but also will support ongoing implementation of Common Core standards.*

*I look forward to hearing about your students' successes throughout the year. Please continue to let me know if you need future support or resources.*

*Sincerely  
Jean Law*

Lynn and I will be going to the California Schools Development Center, CSDC, Conference on Monday November 16, and Tuesday November 17, 2015. It will be held in San Francisco this year.

Our Student of the Month Luncheon will be held this week, but will probably be on Thursday instead of Friday due to a scheduling conflict.

CBEDS report was completed and certified. This is a required state report that includes information regarding staffing levels for non-certificated staff (teacher assistance and clerical), truanancies for the 14-15 year (a total of 9 students who were truant – defined an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes on three or more days – during the 14-15 school year – all of those were community students, most of who travel a good distance to get to school).

**Discussion Items Requiring Action: - None for the Month of November 2015.**

Next Meeting – Monday December 7, 2015 at 5:00 pm – NOTE TIME CHANGE

Adjourn: 6:28 pm

Submitted by  
Linda McWeeney  
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary