

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

September 15, 2015
6:00 pm

Call to Order: President Dee Gadbury

Flag Salute: Immediate Past President Bill Synder

Roll Call of Board Members: Secretary Linda McWeeney

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	Lennie Murphy	Sumako Cohrs
Pam Duben	Jack Evans	Cathy McCutcheon	Jeff Morris
Richard Niederberg	Lenna Welling		

Past Presidents in Attendance:

Immediate Past President Bill Synder
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
Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting – 1)Richard Niederberg 2)Steve Duben – Motion carried
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 shorter report than usual because there was no school in July. We are on a cash basis with LACOE. The ADA numbers are lower because of no school in July
Total revenue for the month of July was \$64,911.00
Total liabilities for the month of July was \$96,429.00
Total Deficit for the month of July was (\$31,518.00)

Motion to accept report for audit 1) Richard Niederberg 2) Steve Duben – Motion Carried

Discussion Items

Superintendent Alan Askot gave the following report:

Overall the new staff hires are doing well. We currently have the most highly qualified staff we have had since we opened. Our science and PE Departments have improved dramatically. We have excellent returning teachers for English and Social Sciences. Our special education services continue to be excellent. We continue to average about 33% SPED students which is exceptionally high. Our math department is currently our challenge. We have both a new math teacher and a brand new math TA who is enrolled in a math credential program. We have one staffing position to fill to be completely staffed. Overall all the school year has started off very well. We generally average around 50 incident reports monthly and our first 18 days we have only had about 13 incidents. This is a huge improvement

Numbers: last year we started off our ADA around 80 and ended with a P@ census, the ADA from the first day of school through April 1, of 90.6. Our ADA so far, over the past 18 days has been 115.6 with the highest enrollment of 128. Our budget is based on 114 ADA so we are ahead of our projection!. Our current enrollment as of today, September 15, 2015 is 120 and 119 students attended. This was our best day so far.

- a) 28 of our students are from Aviva, our highest ever
- b) 2 Maryvale students
- c) 5 community students, one new community young man who parents decided to enroll him last week
- d) 83 Optimist students
- e) 8 residents are attending Dubnoff NPS

Overall one third of our students are female

Lynn and I are going to an all-day training at LACOE on Thursday September 17, 2015

Our first six week progress reporting time is Friday, October 2, 2015

The new computer lab is now open. It is beautiful and has 20 brand new computers and all new furniture.

A \$19,000 grant for the auto shop has been granted and is to be spent on tools and equipment.

Today, September 15, 2015 we received \$4,000 from 2013-2014 from our SELPA which must be spent in the next two weeks for SPED students.

UC Doorways, A-G submissions were all approved. Lynn and David did an amazing job with this. Fourteen classes met the UC requirements for admission into state universities. It will also qualify us for \$50,000 Federal Title 1 dollars.

Last Friday was our Student of the Month lunch. It was wonderful as usual. Thanks to Leland Lau for underwriting this event each month this year.

We are having some issues with Maryvale. We started with only four girls and are down to 1. The transition with Maryvale did not work as well as it did with Aviva. I have been requesting to meet with their staff before

school started to review our policies and procedures and expectations to no avail. They have been used to placing two thirds of their students into public schools for years so that had less of a need to use our charter school. I have scheduled two trainings these past two weeks which were cancelled based on their being on quarantine. I spoke with their Director of Residential Services today and he has assured me that we will make the meeting scheduled for next Thursday September 24, 2015. This is a mandatory meeting and he will attend. We are looking forward at building a positive relationship with them and continuing to get referrals. Have had 6 interviews in the last month and have hired 5 of them.

Student teacher ratio 1 staff every 10 kids. A teacher and TA in each class. Explain the ratio of students in different subjects. Math continues to be a struggle for most of our students. Most of our students do not do well in math. We have a new math teacher and math assistant. The teacher assistant is currently enrolled in a credential program. We have new staff working with experienced staff, and it is working well. Hope to have a better enrollment in middle school, currently we only have 4 enrolled in the middle school program and will be evaluating to see if it should continue. Always open to community students, we serve all.

Sil Orlando and Alan will be attending the LACOE meeting in October to give a report on our Charter School's Progress.

Discussion Items Requiring Action:

PIP applications for: Octavio Fierros-PE and Jabir Kahn –Health. We hired someone with a Master Degree in PE and seven years of experience, but does not have his credential. We are going to push to get the credentialing he needs. He is enrolled in school. He will qualify for an intern credential in January. Will take three specific classes. Until then we will apply for a Provision Intern Permit. We only use for six months. Jabair has been with us for the past year and will apply for the same permit for him. After he has to take a few more classes to be fully credentialed. Alan explained all the types of credentials that our staff holds and what the school is doing to be sure that all our staff are “highly qualified” staff.

- 1) Lennie Murphy
- 2) Richard Niederberg - motion passed.

Next Meeting – Monday October 5, 2015

Adjourn: 6:30 pm

Submitted by
Linda McWeeney
Optimist Charter School Board Secretary