

Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
8.29.16

Members:

Rich Crosby
Nicole Thibodeau
Greg Carr
Hope McClurg
Laura Kanyer
Robin Reich
Jess Malone
Melissa McDermott
Lynda VanWinkle
Mollie Harings
Meghan Stapleton

Nonvoting Members:

Lucas Saltzman

Visitors:

Carrie Connaker
Aubrey Day

Meeting called to order: 5:48 pm

Last meeting minutes from May 16, 2016 were signed by our Chair and Vice Chair.

Principals Report:

August/September Events: Open House, August 30th 5-6:30- We'll have two sessions for siblings and close the event with an ice cream social. APC will have a table and provide a handout. Math Block Starts, September 6th- We traditional have math from 10:00-11:15 and it moved to 2:00 this year in an effort to give us more time for primary grade literacy. Fall Carnival, September 23rd, 6-9PM

Relo - The relo project is finished for now. We have not been billed yet but I'm anticipating a bill less than \$10K. But it will be 8K for black top and curb lane that meet fire truck accessibility standards. Also, considering spending and extra 7K to clean up the mess by the benches and pave the whole piece. We'll be applying some of the remaining balance to a marquee sign for the school, but it may not be possible for the marquee to be electronic due to neighborhood ordinances.

Rich Crosby motioned to allow Lucas to decide if the extra 7K should be spent. Melissa McDermott seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Staff - We have a new team this year in third grade. Our new third grade teacher, Stacy Campbell, is off to a great start and loving our wonderful community. Her TA, Misty Ellis, is also new this year and excited to be at Aquarian. Interns- We have two promising interns this year. Scott Feris is interning in K/1 with Marie. Delaney Clodfelter is interning in 4/5 with Linda.

It was determined that a primary literacy block was a priority goal. In order to allow for this math was moved to the afternoon. Data will be collected until winter break and then a decision will be made if this new schedule should remain. Research shows that the time of day does not necessarily matter, but that kids have a 5 day consistency.

Long-range planning (day back early) occurred and Lucas has written up information. The board will go over it at the next meeting. Lucas continues to hear the sentiment that the teachers do not want to take on any projects that risk losing our culture and sense of community.

Budget - Our EOY surplus last year was \$103K, which was moved to our unallocated funds for future use. We are currently running a false surplus after the Governor's budget reductions. We budgeted \$52K for maintenance costs this year but that was removed from our budget at the end of last year. The Governor's cuts totaled \$35K so we currently have a \$17K surplus from the maintenance line item in our net budget. We will have to pay maintenance fees at EOY so the \$17K will be applied to facilities at EOY and we anticipate needing an additional \$30K to pay that bill. Last year's maintenance costs totaled \$45K. We will transfer part of our \$100K excess in teaching supplies to cover the maintenance costs at EOY. Lucas will give detailed budget that is cleaned up at the next meeting. Great shape financially.

Meeting on Sept 22nd – ASD boardroom Laws around governance – APC Members should plan to attend.

Committee Updates:

Teacher Rep (Linda) – In regards to the entryway slideshow. The monitor will not work with raspberry pie and IT won't support it. Continue to look for an electronic piece to run a slide show.

Long-Term Planning (Meghan) – Reemphasized the desire for more time for writing and a greater emphasis on writing.

A discussion on class size occurred and a breakdown of 3 scenarios was presented to the group. The issue is that Intermediate class sizes have gotten large. Especially with 3/4 and 5/6, because we are not seeing the attrition we used to see. Multi was supposed to come with a 2 year teacher guarantee, but that is not possible with the upper grades any longer.

Scenario 1 reduces to 50 kids enrolled verses 60 enrolled, but financially 100K hit by doing the reduction in student numbers.

Scenario 2 at 2/3 stop doing the multiage – 2 straight classes, but would need another classroom. Could take out tech or possibly put class into the new relo and add a classroom teacher.

Scenario 3 – add 3 teachers in intermediate. Add on 30 kids. 380 total (425 actually). Have to change charter cap because current limit is 400. Specialty teachers would be stretched.

Curriculum - Nothing

By-laws - Nothing

Legislative - (Linda went to a NEA conf – new no child left behind law ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act – what indicators do we want our state to focus on? Provided information to help us move forward in talking to our legislators. New commissioner is considering no state wide testing

Survey/evals – Meghan stated we need to figure out if we want to run polls and evaluations? Need to find out if it is in our by-laws. Maybe we can look at a different way to implement. Question came up, how have we used the information through the surveys? One example provided – skip facility and focus on curriculum.

Tri-body was tomorrow, but will be postponed. Possibly slide the big meeting to mid-Nov (decide at next meeting)

Community Engagement – newsletter went out today and given to Kindergarten parents. A newsletter will be done once a month.

Meghan Stapleton motioned to adjourn and Hope McClurg seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.