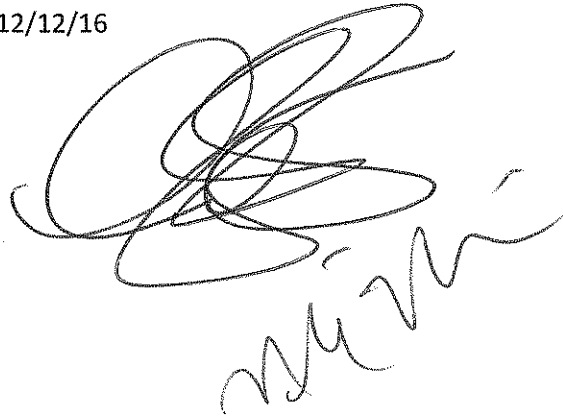


Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
12/12/16

Members:

Rich Crosby
Robin Reich
Melissa McDermott
Laura Kanyer
Hope McClurg
Nicole Thibodeau
Jess Malone
Meghan Steenburgh
Greg Carr



Lynda VanWinkle - excused herself due to the classroom sizing topic

Nonvoting Members:

Lucas Saltzman

Visitors:

Monica Severson
Carrie Connaker

Meeting called to order at 5:50 PM.

Rich Crosby motioned to approve the November minutes. Hope McClurg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Principal's Report:

A new TA will begin on the 14th in Ms. Stacy's 3rd grade class.

Student Climate/performance

December Events:

- o December 6th – Ice rink opens (hat, gloves, hard skate guards, and helmet are required)
- o December 6th – Choir Tour
- o December 7th – Choir performance 6:30 in the gym
- o December 22nd – Last day for students before Winter Break

Projects/Committee Updates:

* The teachers are looking at a number of great ideas for professional development this year. There are some great conferences and schools that some teachers will be visiting in February.

* The Professional Development committee has been organizing our professional literature and recommending that all staff read something new this year. The accumulation of literature will be logged in an online spreadsheet and added to our professional collection.

* Our SEL committee is working with some new ASD resources to examine how we can refine our curriculum, communication, and practice around behavior and decorum in the school.

Staff

* We are interviewing for two TA positions. Please let me know if you are interested.

Budget

* Our 2017-18 budget is due this month. We don't anticipate a surplus next school year. We anticipate flat or reduced funding from the State next year.

Teacher's Report:

Monica Severson: Teachers met to discuss the need for change due to large classroom sizes in the upper grades due to less attrition. The teachers discussed the solutions on the table, but did not take an official vote. They all agree that what we are doing now is not working and a solution is needed. The resounding statement from the teacher body is that they really want to do what is best for our school, but that this is a hard topic. The teachers discussed that there is a lot of confusion in the parent body about the difference between the multi-age track and a combo class.

Rich Crosby motioned to add one full-time class and dismantle the multi-age track after 3rd grade, leaving two straight 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes. Greg Carr seconded the motion. All were in favor, except Robin Reich.

Math Block:

~~The following Robin Reich motion was made; I move to postpone a vote on the changes to this year's mathematics block compression and extend the observation period on the effects of this compression for two more quarters. Data culled from mathematics classroom testing as well as reading and writing shall be taken under consideration. Additionally, data from the school's December and April AIMS web testing should be considered. All testing data shall be compared to previous years' performance.~~

~~Robin Reich motioned to approve. Greg Carr seconded the motion and everyone was in favor.~~

Budget:

Everything is set for next year's budget and we have an even budget. We won't be able to roll much over this coming year. We don't anticipate a surplus next school year. We anticipate flat or reduced funding from the State next year.

Rich Crosby motioned that we approve next year's budget now. Lucas can cost out the ~~new~~ project changes due to adding one full-time class and dismantle the multi-age track after 3rd grade and come back to the board if a future amendment is needed. Gregg Carr seconded the motion and all were in favor.

In January we will begin the after school care conversation.

Curriculum:

Melissa needs to add a question to the survey. Teachers plan to meet to talk about writing curriculum further.

Bylaws:

Plan is to meet before the end of January.

Legislative:

Primarily hearing that money is tight.

Survey:

Plan is to bring in the survey for review.

Triboard:

Will be focusing on after school care revamping.

Community Engagement:

The newsletter has been a nice addition. We will plan to keep printing the newsletter for a while longer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM