



WINTERBERRY CHARTER SCHOOL
ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE dba WINTERBERRY CHARTER COUNCIL
Draft Minutes

09/16/21

6 pm

Attendance: Julie Pepe-Phelps, Marc Stover, Jessie Menkens, Sarah Glaser, Paula Dobbyn, Lisa Stratford, Peter Host, Sue Armstrong, Nick Perry, Shana Garrels, Liane Erickson, Karen Eckman, Kelly DuFort, Liz Birkos, Ann Randolph, Juniper Stove, Tapia Stover, Kira Rafuse, Heidi Jensen

Need to add 3-body meeting topic. (Where was this in the agenda?)

I. Opening

A. Motto of the Social Ethic by Rudolf Steiner

*"The healing social life is found
when in the mirror of each human soul
the whole community finds its reflection
and when in the community
the virtue of each one is living."*

B. Song

C. Excitement Sharing

II. Approval of Minutes

Jessie Menkens moved to approve. Sue Armstrong 2nd.
Minutes were approved.

III. Approval of Agenda

Jessie Menkens moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of an agenda item (3-body meeting). Lisa Stratford 2nd. The amended agenda was approved.

IV. Community Comments [3 minutes each] *Please note: This is the public's time to talk and the board's time to listen. Winterberry Charter Council does not hear complaints against students or personnel in public session. It is not the board's practice to engage in discussion or to answer questions during community comments. Commenters' names will be recorded in the minutes. Thank you.*

Comments were given by: Jaime Butler, Melissa Pike, Tapia Stover, Carolyn Stone, Molly Towner, and Heidi Jensen.

V. Informational Reports

A. Administrator's Report (Julie Pepe-Phelps)
Report attached.

B. Faculty Report
Report attached.

C. WPG Report (Jessie Menkens)
Gratitude to the faculty, staff, and admin!
The WPG had a great first meeting of the year with new leadership. They have decided to limit some of the events. The back-to-school picnic was cancelled. Other events are currently listed as "TBD". The annual giving campaign, G.A.R.D.E.N., with the leadership of Iris Hllsinger, is going forward for this year. Proceeds from this effort go towards teacher training. The WPG is continuing to provide Thursday lunches- organized by class. Some class reps and/or alternates are needed for Hybrid, Grades 1, 3, 7, and 8. The WPG also needs committee chairs for the Winter Faire and the Auction. The WPG meetings are open to all, and take place on the first Thursday of each month. Kelly DuFort is to be commended for her assistance with school communication, through the handbook and other graphic design work.

D. Budget Report (Shana Garrels)
Still on budget.
Closed out 2021 fiscal accounts. Left fiscal year 2021
628, 552 rollover funds
Total unallocated funds 837, 479.00
Student supply fees- 40%

E. Committee Reports

1. Administrative Committees [answers to principal]

a. Safety

Right now, they are working on setting a schedule for drills
Covid mitigation
Emergency Action Plan, a document that needs to be turned into the district soon, is being created.

b. Outdoor Playspace

Oona Martin is looking for more volunteers to further the vision for our outdoor playspace. They are currently looking at coverage for outdoor eating/play space and design ideas for picnic tables. She has been a visionary for many of the current outdoor features at Winterberry, including the ice rink, and

2. WCC subcommittees

a. Legislative Policy

No report.

b. Grant Committee (Peter Host)

Alaska community foundation has a \$750 grant -for schools,should reflect an innovative view of education, be completed for this year
Past years- classroom, library books, instruments, emergency needs, things that increase student access.

VI. Business

A. WCC Board Openings

B. APC Board Training
Saturday, October 9.

C. Gratitude

Gratitude for people who bring information from other boards to the WCC.

Gratitude for Mr. Crawford for going above and beyond.

D. Adjournment:

Peter Host moved to adjourn. Jessie Menkens 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Report Principal's for WCC
9-16-21
Julie Pepe-Phelps

*Winterberry's Mission: Growing the innate potential of each child.
Winterberry's Vision: To receive the children in reverence, educate them in love and send them forth in freedom.*

HEART

- Students and teachers happy to be back to school!
- Commending the efforts of all teachers, staff and parents to get this year off to a great start! Teachers and students are settling into good school rhythms.
- Thank you to the families that have provided staff meals for us on Thursdays—delicious and nutritious.
- Thank you to families for the generous classroom donations!
- Winterberry Community Noon Zoom next Wednesday 9/22—see this week's newsletter!

HANDS

- Winterberry Family Handbook is here! We have copies for each household and it is up on our Winterberry website---check it out! Heaps of gratitude to parent, Kelly Dufort for gifting us with her professional talents.
- We have rearranged our outdoor eating area along the north side of the building (to get ready for snow removal needs)
- Picture day was a great success this year! We will be having another picture day in the spring for any students that were not able to be there.
- Grade 7 Kachemak Bay trip next week
- Grade 6 Geology field trip tomorrow
- Winterberry hosting x-country running meet next Thurs. 9/23 at Kincaid Park at 5:30pm Our team is HUGE this year and doing very well! Please come and cheer them on!

HEAD

- WCC (APC) board training Saturday Oct. 9—could we have 100% WCC participation?
- Calendar: we are working on our part in staff meeting and with WPG—will post on website when finished.

- Faculty and staff thoughts on beginning of the year (in faculty report tonight)
- Curative Education facilitator coming to our school the second week in Nov. will have community talk/workshop opportunities.
- Open House planned for November
- My Waldorf Leadership Course going well

Verse

We must eradicate from the soul all fear and terror of what comes toward us out of the future. We must acquire serenity in all feelings and sensibilities concerning the future. We must look forward with absolute equanimity to all that may come and we must think only that whatever comes is given to us by a world direction full of wisdom.

It is part of what we must learn in this age, namely, to live out of pure trust, without any security in existence; trust in the ever-present help of the spiritual world. Truly nothing else will do if our courage is not to fail us. Let us discipline our will, and let us seek the awakening from within ourselves, every morning and every evening.

~Rudolf Steiner

9/16 WCC faculty report

Celebrations:

- Many classes are happy and engaged students
- Faculty are excited to be back in person and able to do the things that we were unable to do last year
- Battle of the Books is starting soon
- Student Council will be starting soon
- Cross country running is going very well
- 3rd grade has taken on the recycling program and successful berry harvesting trip
- 4th grade is hatching salmon
- 7th grade is heading to Kachemak Bay for their field trip to the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- 6th grade is going to Kincaid Park for a geology field trip
- Festival of Courage September 30th at 11 am – this year it will be a student only event

Today we spent a significant portion of the faculty meeting discussing the new Covid policies put forth by ASD and where Winterberry is at in our managing Covid mitigation.

· ASD is changing policies rapidly and constantly so the following is based on information available to staff and faculty as of 9/16.

· Staff safety concerns with the changing protocols:

§ Close contacts are no longer required to quarantine

§ As long as masks are worn inside then students aren't classified as close contacts

§ We aren't even sure what constitutes a close contact

§ Tightening our practices within the framework that we can control to make things safer for our students – specifically outside

- Maintaining a relationship of trust and transparency with our families

§ We're working on defining our recess and outdoor agreements and will be communicating them with families striving for as much standardization as possible across the grades

§ Requesting what information can be shared with families so that they may make informed decisions for their family

§ Honoring all student's individual needs for safety

- Despite having these safety concerns – we also are concerned with the idea of breaking with the district and paving our own path with policy

- constant change, - continual task

- large and varied community, - split in opinions – causes a lot of strife

- Currently room for differing levels of comfort

Additionally, teachers are managing a lot more this year and are feeling very stretched. ASD currently has little to no sub pool. Staff and faculty are being called to step in and fill in for holes and gaps in addition to their regular duties.