

WINTERBERRY CHARTER SCHOOL
ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE dba WINTERBERRY CHARTER COUNCIL
AGENDA

09/21/2017

6 pm

Attendance: Erin Schneider (parent), Rebecca Steadman (parent), Tanya Greenway (parent), Eric Andersen (principal), George Hoffecker (visiting mentor), Donna Burgess (visiting mentor), Sharyl Toscano (parent), Molly Towner (teacher, recording secretary), Marya Pilifant (parent), Jessie Menkens, Claire L'Clair, Sarah Glaser (teacher), Darrel Vicek, Meggan Judge, Julie Pepe-Phelps (Hybrid teacher)

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: Fall is Here
- C. Excitement Sharing:
Erin-

II. Approval of Minutes

08/22/2017
Jessie Menkens moved
Sharyl Toscano 2nd
Minutes approved unanimously

III. Approval of Agenda

Erin Schneider moved
Marya Pilifant 2nd
Agenda approved unanimously

IV. Community Comments [3 minutes each]

George and Donna are here as observers to see how the charter renewal process is going. They are members of the alliance and concerned community members.

V. Informational Reports

A. Budget Report (Shana):

B.

We will know our budget during student allocation in October. We will probably not have the same cushion we had last year.

C. Administrator's Report

* Winterberry has officially filled all 3 open teacher assistant positions. Please welcome Kim Spillane our new SPED TA, Michelle Wilson our new Kindergarten/1st grade TA, and Jenna Coats our new Handwork TA. We are very fortunate to have Teacher's assistants with such strong experience in the education field.

* Our current enrollment numbers are at 241. This puts us 23 students below last year's projected numbers with 72 on the waiting list at this time.

K = 21 one still rolling

G1= 27 no wait list

G2= 27 one still rolling

G3= 27 no wait list

G4= 28

G5= 28

G6= 28

G7= 25 no wait list

G8= 18 no wait list

Hybrid= 12

Total= 241

* Last night's Open House had a strong showing of parents of about 35-45 people. The teachers performed some fantastic mini lessons that were divided into three sessions. Special thanks to Alicia Besh-Barber for organizing the event and another special to George and Donna for attending and helping educate our parents on the finer points of a Waldorf education.

* Finally, we have formed our team for our Foundations behavior management system. Our team attended an ASD Foundations training September 6th. There, we were trained in the basic structure of Foundations and started the process of moving forward. We will be meeting periodically through the months to collect data and create a priority list of areas within the school that need attention. It is our goal to refine what we already have in place, look for areas that have not been addressed, correct those, and then include it in our Faculty Handbook.

(Crawford, Pepe, Seiff, Glaser, Besh-Barber are committee members)

D. Faculty Report

Harvest Festival of Courage: next Friday at 1:40pm with a play put on by 2nd grade, with bread baked by 3rd grade. We will be requesting donations of apples from the community. The whole school will watch the play.

We would like to add to the charter that Winterberry would like the first day of school to be a regular day, with specialty classes. According to the AEA contract, specialty teachers do not teach on the 1st day and classroom teachers do not have planning time.

E. WPG Report (Jessie Menkens)

WPG meeting was well intended.

They are working on recruiting more members (and officers)

WPG will vote next month about WEP. At this point, there are no students in WEP and all aftercare is provided by Golden Cottage (at AWS)

F. Committee Reports

1. Administrative Committees [answers to principal]

a. **Facility Expansion:** Craig L, Marya P, Julie P, Shana G

A meeting is coming up soon. Kyle will meet tomorrow with Eric and Shana.

b. **Charter Revision:** Tara S, Lynne J, Marya P

Will be discussed under business.

c. **Safety:** Dara L, Erica M, Kylara H

d. **NVC:** Charmine M, Samuel O, Becca

Information about the upcoming NVC workshops with Karl Stayeart was sent to Meggan to disperse to the WCC

- e. **Outdoor Playspace:** Donna M, Drew A, Lisa S
- 2. **WCC subcommittees**
 - a. **Election:** TBD December 2017
 - b. **Hiring:** n/a
 - c. **Supervisory Committee:** Meggan J, Tara S, Claire L
The district is very happy with Eric's hard work!
 - d. **Legislative Policy:** Jessie M
 - e. **Budget:** Sharyl T
We may want to request an audit (based on some of the things that came up at the last meeting regarding things that have happened in the past.)
 - f. **Alliance for Public Waldorf Education:**

VI. Business

A. Contracting/purchasing/budgeting requests and approval

-container for secure outdoor storage
(Eric Andersen) He recommends a 20-foot new container (\$3000), which comes in a choice of colors. They are very bright inside. They won't be lighted (no electricity). Along with the container comes a nice lockbox which is fully covered and encased. 2 sets of keys for the lockbox. They have not had anyone break into it. Additionally, 2 railroad ties (with \$200 delivery fee) would be needed. This falls under outdoor equipment, so grant money could be used. Goal- before the ground freezes. Jessie made a motion to approve up to \$4000, Claire 2nd. Approved unanimously.

B. Charter renewal work

1. **Review:** Need to add: paper/pencil waiver when appropriate. Need to clarify leaseholders. Property is owned by C5. WPG has another 10 years on the lease with MH. Two T.A.'s are missing and need to be added. Specialty teachers will teach classes on the first day (different than AEA contract.)
2. **Other questions/concerns**
Should we add more information about what Winterberry is doing to address the lower scores in math in comparison to the district? (Darrell suggests letting it go to the admin committee as is.)
Why is there no cap on the class size? (There are many variables regarding class size ie funding. Not having a specific cap leaves it up to the principal and charter council to decide.)
Darrel: Make sure to include page numbers. He sent an ASD checklist to Meggan to make sure our application contains all of the required sections.
The administrative review will include feedback from many departments
3. **Vote to approve Charter/amendments**
Marya Pilifant moved to approve the renewal, with the changes as discussed (leaseholder, TA's added, paper/pencil waiver, specialty teachers teaching 1st day of school)
Jessie Menkens 2nd
Approved unanimously

C. Hybrid Amendment Committee

Principal Andersen agreed to start an administrative committee to research the Hybrid program. Discussion regarding the date of submission of the amendment in comparison to the charter renewal. (Darrel- There is time to add it on, or we can get our charter approved and add on the amendment.)

D. Gratitude:

Charter! Work done by Tara, Claire, faculty, and others.
For Darrel- and the interest he takes in Winterberry and his collaboration with us.
Darrel- It would be nice to have a representation at the board meeting on Monday for the end of the year report, starting at 4pm.

Grateful for the Thursday meals provided by parents by the parents (facilitated by 2nd grade parent Karen Eckman.)

Compost Pile

1. 40 Questions from George and Donna
2. Strategic Plan