

WINTERBERRY CHARTER SCHOOL
ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE dba WINTERBERRY CHARTER COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

02/15/24

6 pm at Winterberry, Room TBD

Attendance: Shana Garrels, Sarah Glaser, Ruger Johnsen, Nick Perry, Becky Porter,
Molly Towner, Shannon Uffenbeck

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 and Welcoming

II. Approval of Minutes –

Ruger Johnsen moved to approve the January 2024 minutes. Nick Perry seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ruger Johnsen moved to approve the agenda. Becky Porter seconded. . The 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.*

V. Informational Reports

A. Administrator's Report (Sarah Glaser)

Heart:

Granddaughter Rosemary Grace born on the 7th.

The faculty and staff continue to be thankful for the HTuesday meals.

There is a community potluck, and singing with Meg Chittendon (an amazing Waldorf music teacher) on Saturday, February 24, 5:30-8:30 at Begich.

Hands:

It's getting very icy in parking lot. Please drive slowly!

The lottery is open.

Trailside Discovery is piloting an aftercare program on Thursdays at Winterberry.

Head:

Battle of the books was last week. Winterberry sent 2 5th and 6th grade teams (8th and 11th place) and 1 7th and 8th grade team (8th place).

Jan 29- Becca Bernard (founding member of Great Alaska Schools) and Nathan Coutsoubos (from N.E.A.) met with others about what parents can do to help advocate for raising the BSA. If you want to be more informed, you can get on the Great Alaska Schools email list.

B. Faculty Report (Molly Towner)

*The faculty is preparing for conferences next week.

C. WPG Report (Nick Perry)

- Teacher training allocation: 100% of tuition will be paid for and \$2000 to go toward flight, hotel, and rental car.
- Family dance- will be at Kincaid in October of next year.

D. Budget Report (Shana Garrels)

- Attached

E. Committee Reports

1. Administrative Committees [answers to principal]

A. Safety

- We had our January and February drills. We are through with ALICE drills for the year.
- The roof was checked. It may be shoveled soon (or left, depending on melting).

B. Legislative Policy Committee

- BSA Legislation- includes language that changes the charter school approval process to be only at the state level. What are the ramifications if it goes to the state?
- Should the legislative committee decide on a stance with political issues? If so, should the stances be made public (Thursday newsletter)? Is the WPG a better group to do this? (Ask Jason and communication dept?)
- Should the legislative policy committee merge with the Alaska Reads Act Committee?

C. Grant Committee

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D. Alaska Reads Act Committee

- Interested in ways to get access to data showing reading scores for Winterberry over the years (Aims, Map) to show achievement in grades 3 +.
- Schools are legally required to let parents know they can opt out of testing - and schools are not supposed to be penalized.
- Discussion about mixing meetings for the Alaska Reads Act and the Legislative Policy Committee.

E. Outdoor Site Committee (Ruger Johnsen)

- We are weeks behind where we wanted/planned to be at this point in February, but should still be on track to go for a bid in March. There are indicators that there isn't a lot of requests for bids for the dollar amount, so we should be able to find a company to do the work.
- The playground equipment has been ordered.

F. Election Committee

a. Election Process, UPDATE

- The election was held successfully. All candidates were elected. Neil Trevor, Shannon, Ruger, and Marissa. (Get details from Becky). Chris Griffith resigned as of February 1, 2024.

b. Officers Nominations and Election

- Ruger Johnsen moved to elect Becky Porter for the position of secretary. Marc Stover seconded the motion. She was elected to the position of secretary.

- Ruger Johnsen moved to elect Trevor Holm to the position of the secretary. Nick Perry seconded. He was elected to the position of secretary.
- Ruger Johnsen moved to elect Shannon Uffenbeck to the position of vice-chair. Nick Perry seconded. She was unanimously elected to the position of vice-chair.
- Nick Perry moved to re-elect Marc Stover to the position of chair. Shannon Uffenbeck seconded the motion. He was reelected to the position of chair.
- Nick Perry, elected by the WPG as the WPG/WCC liaison, will stay in his seat for the present time.

G. Additional Subcommittees

- a. Discussion and Nomination
- b. Identifying Specific Goals and Timelines (TBD)

VI. Business

A. Policy and Procedure Review: 5 minutes reminder on item of choice

- a. Topic- Officer Responsibilities

B. Principal Evaluations – UPDATE / Postponed TBD:

Evaluations will be collected from the staff (on paper, delivered to an envelope on Colleen's desk) and school families (on Google forms). Are there set questions that we could request from Jason Hlasny? Mirror questions used on evaluation form given to faculty/staff? Possible questions:

Does the principal contribute to a warm, inclusive school environment?

Does the principal communicate effectively?

Does the principal foster good relationships with parents?

Does the principal navigate conflict effectively?

Do you and your family feel safe at WCS?

Are your child's developmental needs being met?

Is the principal accessible to you and your family?

Is there anything else you would like us to know as we evaluate the principal?

(Always/usually/neutral/sometimes/never)

C. Gratitude Everyone is Thankful

- D. Adjournment: Nick Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. Becky Porter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.