



Rilke Schule

Academic Policy Committee Agenda

Thursday, August 22, 2024

6:00 PM at Rilke Schule

In accordance with Alaska State Statute, the Rilke Schule APC, under contract with the Anchorage School Board, operates this charter school. The purpose of the Academic Policy Committee is to provide strategic governance for the school and its future. The board meets publicly to conduct the business of the school. The board is comprised of voting and advisory members representing parents, faculty and staff. Parent-elected representatives serve staggered, three-year terms with elections every February. The Academic Policy Committee values public comments and encourages all interested parties to submit written public comments on any subject to apc_rilke@asdk12.org. Fifteen minutes are reserved at the beginning and end of each regular meeting for public comments. *Next scheduled meeting: TBA September 2024*

Present: Jason Hotch, Rebecca Colvin, Mark Truog, Jill Doniere, Branden Strauch, Amanda Thompson, Maggie Weyrens, and Katie Kelly
Absent: Akara Anglin and Robin Phillips
Guest: Cameron Vincent-Lang

- I. Call to Order 6:02 pm. Facilities Chair Hotch motioned to adopt Agenda and Minutes from 16 May 2024 Regular Meeting and 15 July 2024 Special Meeting. Vice-Chair Kelly seconded. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Agenda and Minutes adopted.
- II. Public Comment: No comments.
- III. Partner Organizations
 - A. RSV – Amber Brewer, Staff Representative
 1. RSV board completed its budget over the summer. RSV has already conducted its first meeting this academic year.
 2. The following RSV events were conducted at the start of this school year: Popsicles with the Principal, Schultüte, Kindergarten Tears & Cheers, and Kindermode.
 3. Future events: Oktoberfest fundraising will support student activities. One open seat on board.
 - B. RSI – Jocyn Blanchard, Treasurer
 1. RSI had adopted meeting monthly as opposed to its past practice of meeting quarterly.
 2. Clubs update: Clubs are fully operating. Drama Club has returned. Clubs is looking for additional Clubs staff. Clubs will start offering club scholarships for the first time.
 3. Business Partnerships: RSI has started rolling out business partnership brochures.
 4. Future events: A committee has formed with RSV to lead a new auction event on February 1st. Funds from the auction will go to building operational reserves, supporting the intern program, and a night custodian.
- IV. Reports
 - A. Officers

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1. **Chair:** Chair Colvin updated the charter application. She set the board training date for Sept. 21, 9 AM - 4 PM. Chair Colvin would like to have an APC member to be at every RSV/RSI meeting, as they can participate fully. Regarding the new Assistant Principal position, current bylaws/policies don't account for how the AP interacts with the APC. Treasurer Truog moved to invite the assistant principal to attend all meetings as a non-voting member. Facilities Chair Hotch seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
 2. **Treasurer:** Truog noted changes, including enrollment which increased to 480. The initial budget from ASD was based on a lesser number. He reminded the board that the legislative approved funding met expenses this year was from one-time funding, and that spending from savings also has met recent needs. He noted the primary means of reducing costs is through reducing facility costs. Savings is currently at \$1.4 million but is shrinking consistently. Other concerns include AEA and Totem negotiations, which will most likely increase salaries, as it did this past year. Fiscal audit is coming up. Discussion on consumption of student fees ensued. Ideas for helping families and teachers in need of fees or supplies were suggested, including a wish Christmas tree.
 3. **Secretary:** Secretary Thompson noted she was working on updating minutes on the website and board photos.
 4. **Principal:** Herr Strauch noted effects of changes in some areas. Kindergarten enrollment has followed the district-wide trend of dropping. Absence of an evening BPO has not brought any staff concerns so far. Name change survey was with over half of staff approving it, while the community was more evenly split. He also noted the curriculum updates are working well. Discussion commenced over balance around accepting more students and facility/staff resources.
 5. **Teacher Representative:** Frau Doniere noted that staff are generally working on routines and procedures. Things working well include field trips, WIN time, and the Germany trip over summer. Discussion noted that the lunch schedule has not changed.
- B. Schülerrat - not elected yet.
- C. Committees:
1. Facilities/Outdoor: Chair Hotch shared that the grounds cleanup went well. Sump pump maintenance will be done and unfortunately there were roof leaks over summer. P2P will be notified of the issue. A second clean-up may be called.
 2. Strategic Planning: No report.
 3. Performance through the Chair: Chair Colvin spoke for Performance Chair Anglin, who conducted an August check-in with the principal and is working on forming SMART goals for the year. Principal evaluation form will be modified for staff, APC, and community to fit the revisions. New goals will be discussed at the September meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Charter Renewal Application, Second Reading

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1. Chair Colvin made minor grammatical corrections as requested at May 1st reading of application.
2. As a part of the charter renewal, Chair Colvin requested adoption of the school name change. It was noted it had been discussed over the past 6 months, during which two community surveys were sent, receiving light response that was slightly favorable. Discussion commenced over the pros and cons of having more time to discuss the proposed change. It was noted by long-serving staff that the original teaching staff put “arts and sciences” intentionally in the name to ensure that arts and sciences are integral in the school. Changes to this original intention were noted.
3. Motion to extend meeting up to 8:30 PM by Vice-chair Kelly. Seconded by Treasurer Truog. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Vice-chair Kelly motions to change the school name to Rilke Schule German Immersion School. Treasurer Truog seconded. Discussion over practice considerations. 3 opposed, 4 affirmed. Motion passes.
5. Facilities Chair Hotch moves to approve the 2nd reading of the Charter Renewal Application. Vice-chair Kelly seconded.
6. Friendly amendment was made that the Charter Renewal Application be approved upon updating of a sentence in the fiscal section. Amendment accepted by Hotch.
7. Motion to approve Charter Renewal Application passes unanimously.

VI. New Business

- A. Chair Colvin brought to notice the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for German Interns. Hotch motioned to approve MOU with RSI for German Interns. Kelly seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- B. Professional Development funds request from Herr Strauch - \$15,000
 1. Hotch motions to approve up to \$15,000 for professional development, Kelly second. Discussion: Professional development should be part of future regular budgets. Savings from the vacant counselor position can cover this amount currently. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. Set 2024-25 Meeting Schedule
 1. Meetings were set for the third Thursday throughout the school year.

VII. Public Comment

- A. Comments received.

VIII. Executive Session - none.

IX. Adjournment

- A. There being no further business to be transacted, Vice-chair Kelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. Hotch second. Motion passes unanimously.

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