

Fireweed Academy
'Where students learn to view themselves as readers, writers, and problem solvers'

APC Approved Minutes
2-13-2013

Members Present: Kathy Vogl, Kim Fine, Matt Strobel, Amanda Miller, Kristen Metz

Members Absent: Garry Betley, Kelly Behen, Kary Brinson, Pauli Iida

Staff: Janet Bowen-staff, Kiki Abrahamson-Administrator, Deb Schmidt-Teacher, Jon Kulhanek-Teacher

Guests: Paula Kulhanek-parent

Meeting called to order at 4:40pm

Public Comments: Paula Kulhanek expressed her appreciation for all the hard work the APC does for Fireweed Academy

Approval of Agenda: Amanda Miller **moved** to approve of the agenda, Kim Fine **seconded** and it **passed unanimously**.

Approval of minutes: Kathy Vogl **moved** to approve of the 1-9-2013 minutes with corrections, **seconded** by Kim Fine. It **passed unanimously**.

Board Development

Parent Concern Policy: The APC tasked Kiki with reviewing the district policy and adapting it to FWA's needs. This was tabled until the March meeting. Kiki will email a draft to APC members one week prior to the next APC meeting.

Planning

FY14 staffing: She has requested that Carla Baird's position be changed to Intensive Needs Aide. Kiki reported that 3 teachers had file internal transfer requests.

Title I funding: Kiki found out that November 30th is the date for Title I funding. This is when they look at how many students are on the free/reduced lunch program which determines the Title one funding for a school. Fireweed Academy's Title I funding was cut for FY14. Kiki spoke to Sandy Miller and Sandy Miller agreed to fund Betsy's position at 20 percent, FWA will pick up the other 80 percent.

Charter School Over sight request: Kiki requested and was denied intensive needs funding for a student that transferred from Paul Banks to Fireweed after the winter break. She told the Charter School Oversight Committee that while she understands that money provided to the

district from the State of Alaska for intensive needs students is discretionary and was not, by law, required to follow the intensive needs students, she asked that the school district follow the intent of the law. Charter School Oversight Committee member Joe Arness said he would not forward the request for intensive needs money to follow the student during mid year transfers to the school board. He said we should refer the student to another school that can handle the students' needs. Kiki reported that Don Enoch from the State of Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development says we can never say to a parent that we cannot provide for students' needs.

Lynn Hohl wants the 2 questions to be addressed- Can we accept special needs students (or do we tell parents we cannot provide for heir needs) and will the money follow the students?

Kiki will file a rebuttal, requesting that the School District follow the intent of the law, rather than the letter of the law. She will speak with Lynn Hohl more about this issue. The APC supports Kiki's efforts in advocating for accepting Intensive Needs students.

Outreach: Kim F reported that Little Fireweed has seen several individuals visit the school during friendly Visit Week. Next week they will host several day care centers as well as Head Start students with their parents.

Kammi Matson is hosting the Friends of Fireweed Facebook page. Questions arose regarding the use of FWA pictures on the Facebook page or films created in Stephanie Zuniga's after school film club.

Kammi Matson is promoting the use of the Yurt. She and Janet will get together to discuss the facility use agreement.

Other:

Principal Evaluation: Kim Fine recuses herself from participating in the writing of the principal evaluation. She handed off forms she had gathered to Kathy Vogl who will take charge of this process. Janet will send teacher/school evaluation surveys to all APC members.

Outside Time: Matt Strobel has received comments from some parents regarding the amount of time kids are outside. Parents want more. Kim clarified what keeps the kids in:

- Wind-chill of -10 or greater
- Unsafe playground due to ice
- Down pour of rain

Currently there are two 20-25 minute recesses. End of day outside time is optional. The teachers will try to get the kids out more often.

Kim Fine **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Amanda Miller. **Motion passed with unanimous consent** at 5:55pm. The next regular APC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at Little Fireweed Academy 813 East End Road, Homer Alaska

Submitted by Janet Bowen