

Fireweed Academy

‘Where students learn to view themselves as readers, writers, and problem solvers’

Academic Policy Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

12-10-2014

APC Members Present: Matt Strobel, Jon Kulhanek, Hannah Gustafson, Stephanie Zuniga, Amber Niebuhr
Kary Brinson, Katie Henry

Members absent: Garry Betley

Committee Members Present:

Staff Present: Kiki Abrahamson- FWA Principal (via phone for Administrators report only), Janet Bowen -
FWA Secretary,

Guests Present: none

Public Comments: None

Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm

Motion: Stephanie moved to approve the agenda, Kary seconded and motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion: Hannah moved to approve the Oct 2014 minutes, seconded by Kary and motion passed with unanimous consent.

Administrators Report:

Kiki was reroute from her admin meetings in Soldotna and called in her report. She reported that the recent Homer news article did not include our school as one of the reward schools. It turns out they were using data from the previous year.

Her meeting in Soldotna included a discussion about how the new method of teaching math and how to transition teachers to teach math the way our teachers have taught math for years. Kiki offered our teachers up as support.

The equipment fund is still being discussed, our list includes a snow blower, grounds keeping equipment and tables.

She had lunch with other charter school principals and Director of IT, Jim White. We will be included in the District Tech plan on a 3 year rotation. This means we will get new equipment every three years. This should start next year for us. We need to develop a plan by Jan 15th. We will be provided a menu of tech items to choose from...desk tops, laptops with a cart, etc., however no Smart Boards.

SIP: We are making progress towards our School Improvement goals. Kiki has been frustrated with the collaboration between teachers but now feels better about getting the job done.

Students: Kiki reported on our great fieldtrip to Seldovia. The 6th graders took on new responsibility roles and did a great job. We had 2 6th graders write an article for the Homer news about their Mock Justice Circle. And

Marty Zeller and some Flex Improv students were here working with our 6th graders. They will present their new skills to the rest of big fireweed and a few 6th graders will be asked to write an article for the Homer News about their experience.

Current Quarter's theme is transportation. Paul Banks Administrator has a small dog team and might be willing to do a demo for our students. That would be a nice collaborative effort between principals.

Artist in the Schools: Ann Margret Wimmerstedt will be working with our students in February-Encaustic painting.

Staffing: Betsy has changed to being a fulltime interventionist but has not prep time. Kiki has no lunch or prep time. Kiki is advertising for another aide with should help alleviate this problem. The ad must run for 5 days and over a weekend. Janet is working on her reclassification paperwork.

Administrator's position: Kiki asked the APC to discuss the administrator's position. Kiki feels she would like to do one more year fulltime, she feels she has a bigger picture of what needs to happen next year. Kiki gave some scenario possibilities...be full time next year and perhaps she could go halftime the following year. Or maybe this year be full time though the October count and then take November off, back fulltime in January. Or perhaps 4 days a week.

Stephanie voiced concern about the times when Kiki would not be there. Do we only need a half time administrator? Discussion postponed until later in the meeting.

Elections and Appointments: Janet reported that 11 parents voted during the APC elections and all voted to Katie Henry. There were no write-ins. Hannah will invite Brandy McGee to the next meeting to see if she is still interested in the Student rep seat.

Motion: Hannah moved to approve Kary Brinson for the Community rep seat and Katie Henry to fill the parent Rep seat, Seconded by Stephanie, passed with unanimous approval.

School/Teacher Surveys: Janet is asked to email a synopsis of the surveys taken last year and to email current surveys to Kim and Jon so they can revisit them and make them more appropriate for little fireweed. Jon will bring back a revised survey to the APC to Approve. Stephanie will bring the big fireweed surveys to a staff meeting for input and will bring this back to the APC for approval. Janet will email the Administrators survey to the APC. Janet will put school and teacher surveys on next month's agenda.

Budget committee report: The committee has not met during the last month. Eric needs more follow up from Kiki and the district. He would like to have monthly financial reports.-Janet will bring monthly reports to APC meetings.

Return to Administrator's position discussion: Katie would like to see Kiki Stay. She supports flexing Kiki's schedule as we transition someone else in. Matt was concerned with how teachers would feel about longtime time off. Who takes care of things when she is gone? Jon spoke about his timeline as he works towards his Principal credentials through UAA. The APC needs a timeline from Kiki by January.

Board Development

Open Meetings Rules review: Amber provided a handout from the Alaska Legal Resource Center on Government Public Meetings. Amber wants to be sure the APC is using executive sessions appropriately.

Fireweed APC does not have D&O insurance and Janet will research what the other APC groups in the district do for D&O Insurance. Janet will put this on the agenda for December.

Hannah brought prices for Foraker Group board trainings. They have worked with charter schools before. There are webinars that are less expensive. AASB does this training as well. Amber will call them for prices and details. Janet will talk to other charter schools to see what they do for trainings.

What would we do at such a training? Amber suggested we take a day and a half or 2 days to be together to work on the process of acquiring a building that would house both schools under one roof. February might be a good time.

Hannah will explore the Turner-Agassi charter school facilities fund

Motion: Kary moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53pm, seconded by Jon and motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Janet Bowen