

Fireweed Academy

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

Academic Policy Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

2-12-2014

APC Members Present: Kary Brinson, Matt Strobel, Jon Kulhanek, Kristen Metz

Members absent: Garry Betley, Kelly Behen, Stephanie Zuniga, Hannah Gustafson

Committee Members Present: Paula Kulhanek, FWA Parent and Budget Committee member, Erik Niebhur, FWA parent and Budget Committee member

Staff Present: Kiki Abrahamson- FWA Principal, Janet Bowen -FWA Secretary, Kim Fine, FWA Teacher,

Guests Present:, Heather Reichenberg, FWA parent, Amber Niebuhr-FWA parent

Public Comments: Paula Reported that Kelly Behen was resigning effective immediately as she was newly appointed to State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee and her job was now interfering with any Wednesday meetings. Janet confirmed that she had received an email from Kelly reflecting her resignation.

Meeting called to order at 4:40 pm

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

Motion: Matt moved to approve the January 2014 minutes as is, seconded by Kristen and motion passed with unanimous consent.

Administrators Report: We are currently in our open enrollment period, with individual students and Daycares visiting Little Fireweed. Kiki reported FY15 enrollment at 98 so far. Projected enrollment is 116.

Kiki reported on her trip to Seldovia for Peer Calibration Evaluations with Principals Judy Standafer from Susan B English School in Seldovia and Nancy Kleine from Nanwalek/Port Graham. Melissa Linton, coordinator for El Ed-Curriculum joined them as well. They were able to complete evaluations on Jon Kulhanek and Kim Fine.

The Discovery lab went well at Alaska Islands & Oceans. Former educators who were there said they were very impressed by the hands on projects.

Spring fieldtrips are being discussed-Possibly Agaya for the 2-5th graders. Heather Reichenberg mentioned she was the facility manager and help as she could.

West Homer has completed the conversion to Natural Gas. This should cut our utilities possibly by a third.

Charter School legislation-brought by the governor, increase to base allocation could bring in about \$15,000 to our school.

Budget Committee: Erik Niebuhr reported the budget committee has had one meeting so far. He reported that income is derived by formula and salaries are the biggest expense. The committee can help with other things-wondered how bills are calculated and monitored. At WEST utilizes are prorated based on student percentages,

and sped-speech and psychological services -are based on caseloads. He will work on finding out what it cost to education a student. Kiki mentioned that Charter school funding and budgeting structure is different.

Paula Kulhanek handed out hard copies of the budget committee minutes and said Kiki and Erik are working on goals 3 and 4. Janet was requested to email budget details from APECS for FY13 and FY14.

Fundraising Committee: no report

Exit Interviews: Janet reported that as requested, she has begun sending exit letters to families who exit the school regardless of the reason (relocating, extended vacation, transferred schools). The information is kept in the shared FWA files/APC/exit letters. She is also keeping a list running comments from Intent to Enroll forms on why parents are choosing Fireweed. These are kept in shared/APC/enrollment comments.

There was a short discussion on attendance policies, especially as attendance relates to the new star rating of schools. Fireweed received a 4 start rating rather than a 5 start rating due to student attendance.

There was a short discussion on Gov. Parnell's bill that would route public funds into the private sector.

APC Membership:

Motion: Matt moved to appoint Amber Niebuhr to the fill the community rep seat vacated by Kelly Behen, seconded by Kary and the motion passes with unanimous consent.

Motion: Kristen moved appoint Heather Reichenberg to fill the student rep seat vacated by Kathy Vogl, seconded by Matt and the motion passes with unanimous consent.

Executive Session:

Motion: at 5:27pm, Kary moved to enter into executive session, seconded by Kristen, motion passes with unanimous consent.

Motion: at 6:13pm Matt moved to re-enter the regular APC meeting, seconded by Jon and the motion passes with unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15

Submitted by Janet Bowen

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