

Fireweed Academy
'Where students learn to view themselves as readers, writers, and problem solvers'
Academic Policy Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes
October 19, 2015

APC Members Present: Amber Niebuhr (via phone), Jon Kulhanek, Kate Henry, Brandy McGee, Hannah Gustafson, and Stephanie Zuniga

Members absent: Kary Brinson, Garry Betley

Committee Members Present:

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

Community Members Present: Crisi Mathews, Parent

Public Comments: none

Meeting called to order at 4:43 pm

Motion: Hannah G moved to approve the agenda as amended, postponing the discussion of principal transition and adding APC membership, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion: Hannah G moved to approve the September 2015 minutes, seconded by Katie and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Administrators Report: Enrollment continues to drop, we will lose 2 more kids at the end of October due to a family moving to Anchorage. The cost of our falling enrollment comes to about \$200,000, including money from the state and the borough. The budget committee met; we are still solvent but we will dip into last year's rollover and there will be no rollover this year. This will affect staffing. Typical staffing for the district is 1/20 for Kindergarteners, 1/24 for elementary and 1/25 for middle and high school. At FWA we are at 1/11, making us over staffed. Everyone is on contract for this year but next year there will be significant cuts...1-2 staff.

End of the quarter conferences are October 29-30. The end of the cycles them and harvest celebration at little Fireweed was great. The Fiber arts class is going well, the performance is this Saturday at HHS.

Stephanie got a grant to participate in the First Lego League, after school meetings will start Nov 5th.

Motion: Hannah Gustafson moves to approve payment of after-school stipend (\$352, pending negotiations) to Kiki Abrahamson for the STEM fiber arts class that is meeting on Thursdays September 17- October 22, 2015. Additionally, Hannah moves to approve per diem to Kiki Abrahamson for extra work completed while a staff member was on unexpected leave. Payment includes the following hours: Sunday, August 30: 6 hours, September 6th: 6 hours and September 13th: 4 hours for a total of 16 hours. Motion seconded by Kate Henry and passed with unanimous consent.

Budget Committee: Reported by Hannah G and Kiki A: Enrollment is down. We will need to increase enrollment and possibly cut staff. It would be better for the district to reorganize with facilities rather than lose teachers. PR group should meet, advertise open enrollment better, look at mixed age schools. Kiki reported that

the district is looking for suggestions regarding what to do with the tremendous deficit that is looming. Kiki and Erik neighbor talked to Jon Pothast, Director of Secondary Ed-Student Activities. Two years ago we went from fiscally insolvent to fiscally solvent because the state changed how we were funded. Discussed how we had to spend money on things we did not really need so we could roll over our 10% max. She spoke to him about our dream to have one facility for the school-it saves the district money to have us in a district building. Kiki said comments and suggestions are to be sent up to the district. There is a PowerPoint on the district website-shows that salaries are 90% of the budget.

Janet was asked to add 'adoption of core values' to next month's agenda-Kim Fine will circulate the values talked about during last year's APC strategic planning prior to the next APC meeting.

Strategic planning committee reports:

Community Relations-No report

Organizational Values-No report

One Campus Dream-No report

Strong leadership: Met, updating job description for Administrator, working on multiple scenarios

On the Bus-no report. Kim will place this on the next all staff agenda for discussion

APC membership

Motion: Amber moved to approve Hanna Snow as a staff representative to the APC, seconded by Hannah G. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Motion: Amber moved to approve Crisis Mathews as a parent representative to the APC, seconded by Jon K. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Expansion: Where and when is it most important? Pre-school-Best beginnings. PBE has special needs and Pre-K, Chapman has title 1 pre-k. Kiki will talk with Title 1 Coordinator and report back via email. The discussion is proponed until the next meeting but basically there is more interest in earlier expansion rather than 7-12grades. Jon suggested the better conversation is expansion for 4 year olds, or very young 5 year olds. Kachemak Kids closed, Faith Lutheran preschool is full... Requests are due to the school board by October 1st for expansions to take place the following year. There should be an APC work session to look at our re-application, work on a budget, rationale, where would this take place, staffing, potential census, etc. and then present a proposal.

Motion: Brandy moved to adjourn at 5:50 pm, Katie seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

The next meeting is Monday, November 9, 2015

Submitted by Janet Bowen