

Fireweed Academy

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

Academic Policy Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

9-10-2014

APC Members Present: Heather Reichenberg (left at 5pm), Jon Kulhanek, Stephanie Zuniga, and Amber Niebuhr

Members absent: Garry Betley, Kary Brinson Matt Strobel, Hannah Gustafson

Committee Members Present: none

Staff Present: Kiki Abrahamson- FWA Principal, Janet Bowen -FWA Adm. Assistant, Kim Fine-FWA teacher,

Guests Present: Vincent Black, Parent

Public Comments: Kim thanks Kiki (and the legislature) for efforts in getting additional support at little fireweed. They now have free and clear duty free lunches and prep times.

Meeting called to order at 4:47 pm

Motion: The Agenda (with amendment- School Survey discussion postponed until next month’s meeting) and the Aug, 2014 minutes passed unanimously.

Administrators Report:

Emergency Action Plan: Kiki discussed the new ALICE procedures (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) that the district is embracing. In the event of evacuations and students are unable to return to the classroom, she arranged for our reunification locations to be at the Pratt Museum (3779 Bartlett St, Homer) for Big Fireweed and at the Pride House (205 Lake Street, Homer) for Little Fireweed.

Motion: Stephanie moved to approve the Pratt Museum and the Pride House as reunification locations in case of evacuations at Big and Little Fireweed. Motion seconded by Jon and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff will receive further training under the ALICE program and both schools will be practicing these drills.

Attendance: Kiki shared a chart illustrating the percentage of students in each district school that have 17 or more absent days. FWA came in at 35.34%. Janet was asked to find out if this includes the students who were unenrolled due to long absence or vacations) and then re-enrolled when they got back. In an effort to combat this high percentage. Kiki and Janet have tweaked the absent/tardy letter and have begun to use this with our families.

Title 1: Betsy Vanek is working with kids in the morning on reading and is running a title 1 afterschool program on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Charter School rent and in-kind services: Kiki said that she and Janet attended the school board work session on Monday regarding Charter School In-kind Services and Rent. Last year's education legislation required that charter schools receive a portion of the "Additional Allowable" funding that school districts receive from their local municipal government. Additional Allowable is the funding provided to the district beyond the Required Local Contribution. The district was looking for a way to charge the charter schools for rent and in-kind services previously not charged. After the district calculations, and because half of our students are housed in a non-district facility, Fireweed will end up with an extra \$126,459.84 this year. The districts formula can now be used in our annual budget.

Parking lot issues: Kary and Hannah are looking into options for the parking lot. Per Dave Jones, if it is improvements, it is up to the landlord to take care of and if it is maintenance, it is up to Fireweed.

APC Goals/SIP: Our goals are:

- 100% of Staff will demonstrate improved communication, professional interactions and collaboration skills by spring break
- 100% of students will receive differentiated instruction based on readiness, interests, and learning profile by end of 1st quarter.

The staff added Professional Development to the SIP.

Discussion: It is important to build relationships between staff through appreciation, maybe gatherings. How can we provide input and feedback with good intention and good will? Perhaps through classroom visitations?

Kiki will complete Site Council report as we approve minutes. The SIP is due Sept 29th to the district. Academic Achievement, Organizational Excellence. Kiki will update and send via email to APC. A motion will be needed via email to approve the SIP. Concentrate on content, process and production.

Budget Committee: There has not been a meeting so no report. It was brought up that there should be another APC member on the budget committee.

Open house: Sept 17th for little Fireweed, 5-6pm. This is an early release day.

APC Positions: There are 4 positions coming open on the APC. Janet will send out notices to the parent to see who might be interested. Janet will create ballots and voting will take place the week prior to the next APC meeting.

Fundraiser: Janet will send out an email to parents to see if they want to participate in the fruit fundraiser again.

Motion: Amber moved to executive session, no one seconded (only 3 member present), moved to postpone until next month's meeting, seconded by Jon and passed.

Motion: Stephanie moved to adjourn, seconded by Jon, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourns at 6:15pm

Submitted by Janet Bowen

