Fireweed Academy

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

Academic Policy Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

December 7, 2015

**APC Members Present**: Jon Kulhanek, Amber Niebuhr, Brandy McGee and Hannah Snow

**Members absent:** Kary Brinson, Garry Betley, Crisi Mathews, Kate Henry, Hannah Gustafson

**Committee Members Present**:

**Staf**f **Present**: Kiki Abrahamson- FWA Principal, Janet Bowen - Secretary, Kim Fine-Teacher, David Lefton, teacher, Mo Wilkinson, Teacher, Betsy Vanek, teacher

**Community Members Present**:

**Public Comments**: none

Meeting called to order at 4:41 pm

**Motion: Jon moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Amber and the motion passed with unanimous consent-executive session moved to January meeting.**

**Motion: Brandy moved to approve the November 2015 minutes, seconded by Jon and the motion passed with unanimous consent.**

Administrators Report: Kiki reported that we did not receive a National Title 1 award. She will create a file with application information in case we are asked again. Kiki attended the Charter school meeting via phone this week. On the agenda was a discussion of increasing the length of charters to 10 years. It was not discussed. If it is discussed and passed, it would not extend our current charter, which takes us through FY17. We would reapplied and then it would be a 10-year charter.

Deadlines: The FY17 Budget is due on Dec 11th. Due to our declining enrollment, Kiki recommended to staff that they put in for volunteer transfers. This means when a position opens, they are guaranteed an interview. The deadline is Feb 1st.December 15 is the deadline to report students for retentions or acceleration.

Lots is happening…The spaghetti feed is Dec 8th, Kiki and 6th graders are making 35 dozen rolls. We have a bake sale at the nutcracker ballet on Wed. The 3rd-6th students are having a flea market, talent show, Readers Theater, skating party next week. LFW has a Habitat Showcase on the 17th.

Enrollment: Census is down to 87. Teacher ratio is now 1-11. We are over staffed. District recommends 1-22/1-25, our Charter strives for 1-17.

Kiki submitted her letter of resignation to the APC and Staff.

Budget Committee: No report

Strategic planning reports:

Community Relations- Janet has contacts for a potential PR video. Janet and Kiki will attend the Procrastinators fair with a student activity table.

Organizational Values- Kim: Values needs to be word-smithed and adopted. Amber feels we should do this prior to asking Susie for assistance. Janet will let Susie Amundson know.

One Campus Dream- Amber said they met and discusses contracting with the borough but now we do not have the funds. Amber will call Kelly Cooper from the borough and just let her know about our facility needs.

Strong leadership: no meeting this month

On the Bus: Kim reported that staff are working on priorities.

FY17 Staffing: we have 8 certified staff, 3 are non- tenured, 1 is part SPED/Certified 6 are General Ed. If there is a Reduction in Force (RIF), the non- tenured staff are considered first. With Kiki retiring, we are not in a dire situation but we cannot keep staffing at this level. Shared staff fees are already lower. The district is concerned with our declining enrollment. Staff contracts come out in Feb/March.

Options:

-Lead teacher/Cert teachers.

-If a teacher goes halftime, do they have to re-apply-Kiki thinks not, nor with switching positions.

-Right now we have a teacher teaching 5th grade Language Arts and a separate teacher teaching 6th grade

Language Arts-not working that well. One teacher could teach both.

-We have 12-13 SPED kids. We could lower our SPED position to .3, or we could hire Kiki to do case

management.

-We could have the 3rd graders stay at LFW-the rent is cheaper.

-Kiki recommends the APC does a search for a principal to see what is available. We can say we have

not found anyone who meets our needs.

Kiki is willing to work part-time is the schedule is flexible. She would work the 1st quarter, through the October count, then take time off. Could work up to .49. Or contract to do evaluations and other required things. There is a wide variety of how to pay and how much to pay.

At the end of next semester Jon will be done with his core classes. Next year is his internship year for his Type B Certificate.

There is no seniority between tenured and non-tenured staff within their groups. SPED teachers have to have certificates, interventionists do not.

FY17 budget: We started at 97 students, we are now at 87. The difference comes to about $117,000-about our rollover amount. Firs choice would be RIF the interventionist (the position, not necessarily the person as she is tenured). Jon cold be ½ teacher, ½ ADM-teach in the mornings, ADM in the afternoons. Aide would help in the afternoon.

Administrative Job review is postponed until the January meeting.

Motion: Brandy moved to adjourn at 5:59, Jon Seconds and the motion passes with unanimous consent.

The next APC meeting is Monday, January 11, 2015

Submitted by Janet Bowen