

Cottonwood Valley Charter School Governing Council Regular Meeting July 9, 2008 – 7:00 pm

- I. Call Meeting to Order John
- II. Pledge of Allegiance All
- III. Ascertain Quorum
John Benson, Amy Cooley, Harry Straley, Jim Shepherd, Nancy Engler, Kim King-Wrenn, Mary Cox, Boyd Waters
- IV. Reading and Approval of Agenda
Approved-all ayes.
- V. Reading and Approval of May minutes
Approved-all ayes.
- VI. Public Forum
No public presentations.
- VII. Teacher Representative Report 10 min. Nancy
Nancy reported. Attended the BP (alternative energy) seminar. We can apply for grants each year. Attended NASA training with Don Gaitens, web-based on-line training. Kid can see in 3-D how weather is created: volcanoes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, etc. EPGY training next week, Nancy and Karin. Nancy will attend a Starbase session during the last week before school starts. Starbase visits next year will include 4 field trips for 7th grade, 4 trips for 6th grade, 5 trips for 8th. Robotics at Starbase, grades 6/7 together. Karin said that the week before school the K-5 will get together for a week for additional training; these are additional (non-contract) days. One thing to work on was to improve parent communication. Karin has grade-level reports for state-based and Stanford-9 composites for everyone to evaluate. National, norm-based tests we do great, the state ones... not so much. The 6th grade math, 42% of our kids tested proficient (NM test). On the Stanford 9, the same class tested at 89% percentile national. Something weird that needs to be understood. [Boyd mentions that interpreting these numbers is difficult; Nancy agrees.] Probably we are fine to meet AYP.
- VIII. Student Council Representative Report 5 min.
No rep. present.
- IX. Department Reports
 - A. Administrator's Report 10 min. Karin
See attached report.
 - B. Business Manager's Report 10 min. Mary
See attached report. We received our official, signed budget from the PED to in the mail. We will resume our Budget Comm. Meeting in August, everyone is invited. The big budget items to watch out for are ancillary services which are always depending on how many kids are identified as requiring services: that's a big expense (speech, counseling, OT)
- X. Correspondence and Announcements
None.
- XI. Committee Updates 30 min
 - A. Gifted John
No meeting held.
 - B. Fundraising Peter
No meeting held.
 - C. Parent Association Kim
No PA Meetings held during the summer.

E. Facilities

Jim

CVCS group gave a 20-minute presentation to the PSCOC, they asked positive-spin questions, the presentation was "as good as could be", we asked for a multi-purpose room, 1.3 million \$. It was suggested to us to ask for the admin space as well; we're getting a more-detailed cost estimate. July 30th is when the results will be announced.

Karin called this afternoon and said that our LFS contact didn't need any more information, but that someone from the school should be there for the July 30th meeting, in the event that there is particularly good news someone is there to respond..

The NM Charter School Coalition is forming a separate, lease-purchase group. If we join we reduce the legal fees that we would incur in pursuing lease-purchase agreement. The expected value of our legal fee expense is around \$10,000, paid to the Coalition.

F. Computing

Boyd

Boyd showed several computers that he brought in, including some cheap but rugged laptops. Nancy E. said her students really need laptops.

XII. Old Business

A. GC Retreat Priorities

10 min.

John/Karin

Moved until next month.

B. Budget for 2008-2009

5 min.

Mary

The budget for the next fiscal year was approved. Motion made to approve—all ayes.

C. Leave of Absence Policy

5 min.

Nancy

Currently, our policy says: sabbatical or other leave requests may be submitted to the administrator and GC for consideration; we must follow state law.

Then there's the district policy, which is better defined, but maybe the policy for us (given our size) is to leave it vague... but whenever you don't have a well-defined policy, it bites you, so we may consider what the district has. This topic is deferred until further discussion with Karin.

D. Open Meetings Act

5 min.

John

Everyone has now read the Open Meeting Act.

XIII. New Business

A. School Open House

15 min.

Kim

One of the things that we talked about at the retreat was to have presentations (10 minute things) at the Fall Open House/Potluck. Kim suggest four presentations scheduled such that the parents can attend each one. The presentations might be : what is the curriculum? what is the dress code? what is a charter school (what to expect)? how to get what you want (how to participate) .

Tentative schedule : Monday the 11th 6pm dinner potluck 7pm presentation.

B. School Issues

John

Ideas on how to get more parents involved in the school were discussed. The GC can communicate amongst ourselves by email where we are only disseminating information

XIV. Items for Next Month's Agenda

Parent-Teacher Resource Guide

NMCSC Lease-Purchase Group

XV. Scheduling Next Meeting:

August 13

XVI. Executive Session

Roll call: John-aye, Kim-aye, Boyd-aye, Amy-aye, Harry-aye, Jim-aye.

Executive session ended.

Motion made to hire Liz Alvarez as Art Teacher – approved all-ayes.

XVII. Adjourn