

Nevada City School of the Arts
Charter Governance Council
Friday, February 19, 2010
Minutes

1 Call to Order 1:30 pm, meeting called to order at 1:35

2 Roll Call: Mary Peterson, Jody Deaderick, Doug Gaylord, Becky Noto, Jeremy Jones, Holly Pettitt, Kate Fingerson, Janice Bedayn

Guests: Andrea Echegaray, NCSA Business Manager, Sarah Gordon SAEF President, Elizabeth Magallon-Fleury, SAEF representative, Beth Ann Locke, SAEF representative.

3 Public Forum: Members of the public are invited to address the Governance Council regarding issues for future agendas. Comments to be limited to 3 minutes.

No public forum presented

4 Plaudits

Holly thanks the upper grade team for out-of-the-box solutions to budget problems, Jan to Jody for concessions set-up at Cyrano, Holly to Lizary & Pam for coming in to new positions so well, Kate for great 4th grade field trip, Holly to Angie and Kate for Lorax play—it was a school effort- great new show, Jan to the AMOT team who is really working hard, Holly to the artists for the unbelievable work they are putting in on the auction, to Mary and Colleen for the new Peace Circle program they are about to embark on with the fourth grade, from Holly to Maria for the family History program.

Action Item

5 Approve Agenda

Motion Janice Bedayn 2nd Jeremy Jones

Ayes 7 Nos 0 Abstentions 0

6 Approve Enrollment Policy description of kindergarten options.

Language to change from “Track” to “Path” and remove “commitment” and create a procedural addendum that explains the lottery process. Holly to present again at next meeting. No motion was made.

Motion 2nd

Ayes Nos Abstentions

7 Consent Agenda

Approve New Employment Contracts (Office Administrator, Receptionist, Temporary Custodian, and two Electives Teachers)

Approve January Expenditures

Approve Minutes 2-5-10

Approve at-will termination, classified

Motion Doug Gaylord 2nd Becky Noto

Ayes 6 Nos Abstentions 1 (Jeremy Jones)

Discussion

8 Presentation and discussion of Preliminary 2nd Interim 2009-10 School Budget (final approval in early March)

Very little has changed for our 2nd interim budget, however, Andrea also presented the 3 year projected budget, which has significant impact to the school. Everyone agrees that our families need more information concerning the long range budget difficulties we will be facing. Holly, Andrea, Jan will meet next week to create a letter for our parents to understand the current financial situation and the response by the school. CGC members are to gather ideas for further action and come to next meeting with ideas for what parents can actually do. Overwhelming sentiment concerning cuts in funding is to go out and find the money rather than pick apart our program.

9 Discuss state error concerning mandated classroom days.

(State law appears to have been written incorrectly which has consequences for our current schedule of 173 classroom days. Dept of Education sent us a letter stating 173 days was fine, however the specific law was written incorrectly to reflect a mandate of 175 days. State is attempting to re-write the law correctly but there is concern that it may not happen in time.)

Possible 2 days added back on to school schedule, decision from state by April. We have information that we may be able to apply for a waiver. More information will be forthcoming.

10 CGC Bylaw revisions.

Holly & Andrea to present requested revisions. Briefly discuss procedure for revisions.

By-laws will be influenced by the school’s 501c3 status if we choose to pursue that. Postpone decision until we make a decision about non-profit status.

Reports

11 School Director: Holly Pettitt—(see attached) Playground built!, Bruce to finish in Spring. First facilities meeting took place, currently looking for real estate lawyer to help us with the facilities process. Had to talk to 6, 7, & 8 about sexting only one response from parent. Boys Council & Girls Circle (supplied to the school for free) will begin in March. 3rd grade boys and 5th grade girls will be the first to go through the program. Upper grades are considering teaching one subject ie: Cathy would be the 6th, 7th & 8th grade teacher for History, Dave for Science, etc. Waiting for County to present suggested changes to the MOU at next meeting.

12 Faculty: Kate Fingerson/Dave Gordon—Kate asked questions at team meeting about five year plan and where we see the school. Gary would like to ask how we balance quality program with cuts. Seems like a contradiction, keep this in mind as CGC develops a strategic plan. The teachers would like to be a part of the process when budgets are developed, could budget be re-worded that we need to cut \$68,000 instead of \$40,000 instead of assuming no step increases.

13 Arts Coordinator: Jody Deaderick—Looking into a company that provides insurance on rental instruments. Made calls to parents about late rental payments and CC payments. Bass teacher quit, looking for another teacher, students have been absorbed into other classes. Cyrano volunteers are great fun, cast and theater happy with what we are doing, hard to calculate profits quite yet.

14 SAEF: Sarah Gordon AGC contributions doing well. Just made 2nd payment and 3rd payment in the bank. If payments stay the same and pledges continue to come in SAEF may end up with some AGC surplus at the end of the school year in June. For future discussion the field studies payment plan has worked better than asking trip by trip. The ballpark figure from Cindy for field studies is approx. \$68,000/year. The scholarship responses from the families that have not paid anything are estimated to be \$14,000, SAEF budgeted only \$13,000. There is still a question around who is responsible for spending class funds. Holly to get clear on that and bring to next meeting. AMOT would like to ask for dance room renovation to be auction item. Holly asked the teachers and they all said yes, they support this. Holly to run by the teachers again in light of budget news.

Discussion

15 NCSA Strategic Plan

Identify and discuss CGC priorities and faculty priorities (if available) for 5 year strategic plan.

Question was asked of each member, What are the school's strengths, weaknesses, and where would you like to see the school in 5 years?

Strengths: Honoring children, integration of arts into curriculum and arts in general, creating a safe caring and exciting environment where kids want to come to school, constantly refining and improving discipline, strong music program, teaching children to be lifelong learners, willingness to hear that there is room for improvement, issues addressed when they arise with understanding, sense of love and belonging here-kids & staff part of why kids want to come to school here, allow kids freedom to express individuality, feels safe, loving & peaceful for kids & parents, nurturing around taking responsibility for mistakes, make room for parents to be involved, strong faculty and administration, keeping an eye to the future with a can-do attitude.

Weaknesses: The dark side of honoring children is it fosters entitlement and lack of respect for process, low pay for everyone who works here, no staff room, lingering kid cliques which are painful- the haves & have nots-patterns develop because kids go through grades together for so long, need more work on assessment and curriculum delivery, lack of visibility in the greater community, suffer from small school-itis, do better at parent education, financial reliance on State, renting building, fundraising from mostly parents, volunteering can burn out parents then we are weakened, eighth grade there is a falling apart that kids experience-could we notice and deal with/improve in holding them tighter, bigger facility to support programs we want to offer, facility & lack of marketing, simplify parent participation in "extras"-cut down costs and volunteer burnout, strengthen curriculum guides for any new, not enough parent education, fail on kids doing community service-giving back event to school.

The school in 5 years: Postponed

Adjournment 4:59

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela Roberts Brockway, NCSA Office Administrator

Approved by the NCSA Charter Council

Janice Bedayn, President Date