



Yuba River Charter School

CHARTER COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of January 12, 2011
3:30pm YRCS Library

Yuba River Charter School is a community focused on the development of our children. The primary responsibility for the governance of the affairs of the school falls upon the Charter Council, composed of teachers, staff, parents and community member(s). Regular meetings of the Charter Council are held the second Wednesday of each month. The Charter Council invites input from all constituencies of the school. For more information regarding the functioning of the Charter Council, see the Charter Council By Laws and applicable policies.

1. Call to Order - 3:34 PM

CC Present: Caleb Buckley (CB), Susan Egan (SE), Doris Rainville (DR), Leila Barber (LB), Torrie Mudd (TM), Robert Wallis (RW), Mariana Nielsen (MN), Newman Peery (NP)

2. Public Comment -- NONE

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the council on non-agendized items. Note the council cannot discuss or take action on non-agendized items at this meeting, but such items may be agendized for a later council meeting for discussion and/or action. Agendized items may either be addressed at this time or when the items come up for discussion and/or action. All comments are to be pertinent to the business of the board as determined by the chair. Furthermore, comments which reflect adversely upon personal character or motives are out of order as are those which reflect racial, religious, economic or political views. Such statements are grounds for summary termination of the privilege of address.

3. Consent Agenda Action Items

- a. Shall the CC approve revisions to the CC Bylaws? NP 1st, LB 2nd - **Moved to discussion/action item.**
- b. Shall the CC approve the Safety Policy? LB 1st, TM 2nd - **Passed unanimously**
- c. Shall the CC approve the Sexual Harassment Policy? (To be included in the Classified and Certificated Personnel Policies) NP 1st, LB 2nd - **Moved to discussion/action item.**
- d. Shall the CC approve revisions to the Dress Code (Free Speech Clause added)? NP 1st, LB 2nd - **Moved to discussion/action item.**
- e. Shall the CC approve Warrants July 1 - December 31, 2010? LB 1st, TM 2nd - **Passed unanimously**

- f. Shall the CC approve the Child Care Policy? LB 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously

4. Discussion Items

- a. Update on Strategic Plan preliminary meeting -- CB: 4 sessions are scheduled on Jan., 20, 21, 27, & 28. Kateri Harrison is facilitating the meetings with a coordinating committee that includes Gary Gardner, Torrie Mudd, Caleb Buckley, and Melissa Seibold. 23 people are scheduled to attend. Approximately 120 survey responses have been received and results have been consolidated into a 6 page report. Kateri Harrison will send out materials to the participants including an agenda and survey summary results. Childcare will be available.
- b. Discussion of Little Creek Program - CB: Because no other sites on campus were adequate, it was decided to share the room currently used by the Sweet Pea homeschool kindergarten. So far the arrangement has been working out well with good synergy and cooperation between the teachers. It has required Administration to develop new program hours, tuition agreements, and employment contracts to coordinate all those affected. Currently 10 remain enrolled in the Little Creek Program and it will continue to be monitored and evaluated. Whether a public charter school should be involved in subsidizing a private preschool is an ongoing issue for debate. The landlord has promised a permanent fix to the preschool facility in the basement on or before June 1. The current expectation is that Little Creek will open for the 2011/2012 school year with a three day a week schedule.

5. Discussion/Action Items

Moved from Consent Agenda.

- a. Shall the CC approve revisions to the CC Bylaws? NP 1st, LB 2nd: Passed unanimously with a correction to change the term "clerk" to "secretary" on page 1.
- c. Shall the CC approve the Sexual Harassment Policy? (To be included in the Classified and Certificated Personnel Policies) NP 1st, LB 2nd - Passed unanimously after adding "employees shall be encouraged to immediately file a confidential report..." to the final paragraph.
- d. Shall the CC approve revisions to the Dress Code (Free Speech Clause added)? NP 1st, LB 2nd -Passed unanimously after minor grammatical corrections.
- a. Shall the CC approve minutes for 11-10-10, 12-8-10 and 12-17-10? RW 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously with very minor corrections
- b. Shall the CC choose 3 CC members for the Director's Evaluation committee? Leila Barber, Torrie Mudd, Robert Wallis selected. DR 1st, MN 2nd - Passed unanimously

- c. Shall the Director's Evaluation be submitted by online survey to teachers, board members, and superintendent's office? Agenda item clarified to indicate who will participate in the survey. NP 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously
 Discussion about the survey included the need for providing for anonymous responses, and how it will ease gathering of information for the evaluating committee. The office will make a computer available for anyone who does not have Internet access and needs to complete the survey. LB 1st, DR 2nd - Passed unanimously
- d. Shall the CC ~~appoint~~ elect a Secretary, Treasurer and CC Rep. to Parent Council? Amended agenda item
 Secretary: TM nominates MN, LB 2nd - Passed unanimously with MN recusal
 Treasurer: This motion was unanimously tabled: LB 1st, RW 2nd. CB and TM to research state laws and report back on job responsibilities at the March meeting.
 Parent Council Rep: NP nominates RW, DR 2nd - Passed unanimously with RW recusal
- e. Shall the CC Chair appoint an acting chair in the absence of the chair? LB 1st, MN 2nd: Motion withdrawn. Permanent appointment determined not to be needed per the bylaws.
- f. Shall the CC approve increasing the class size for grade 3? NP 1st, LB 2nd. Motion tabled.

6. Reports

- a. Director - Caleb Buckley - Report to include: NCE Update, timeline for design of new school bldg.
 Status of prop 39, which provides for charter schools to obtain classrooms from school districts from which students have transferred: Grass Valley school district responded and offered four classrooms in noncontiguous building sites for a high fee. The offer was rejected, but did provide an opportunity for discussion between administrations at each school.
 Discussions with Nevada City's school district are more formal since that district has an empty campus available. That district requested an extension until March 1 which was granted. At this point YRCS is not pursuing the Nevada City Elementary school campus because a large percentage of funding for YRCS' custom-built site was recently made available, potentially allowing building to commence in the near future.
 Robert Wallis is the new member of the design committee for the new school building. The design committee includes CB, RW, SE, and Vitskaia Fernandez.
 The goal is to move into the new school facility for the school year 2013/2014. The next step is to get the site and design plans.

The current issue is that this state has authorized the funding but hasn't actually released any yet pending some re-approval of the fiscal soundness of the school. In order to meet the tight timeline approximately \$50-\$100,000 will be needed for things such as the site survey. This will likely be discussed at future CC meetings. CB is presenting the opening keynote address at the National Alliance for Waldorf Charter Schools. This organization has grown significantly from when YRCS was the founding member. 250 participants from across the nation are expected.

b. Business Manager - Susan Egan:

YRCS received \$1.5 million allocation towards the approved grant for a new school facility. In order to have this allocation funded fiscal soundness needs to be reevaluated. This paperwork has been submitted and is awaiting state approval. The board will need to approve the new funding agreements and MOUs with the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and the Charter School Finance Authority (CSFA) because the financial status of the school has changed since the original application and we are now authorized to hold our own title. A special meeting may be needed to handle these agreements expeditiously so they won't delay the new facility time line.

c. Parent Council - RW update: The biggest topic of discussion was around the details for the winter assembly. Two new fundraisers were approved, including pasties for Thursday lunches and a fundraiser at Matteo's, a local restaurant. An effort is underway to show greater parent appreciation, with input from the Parent Council and also requests for teachers to submit names of active parents. To Parent Council: RW was requested to ask Joe Fajen to contact SE regarding him taking over Parent Education activities.

d. Ed Foundation - Doris Rainville

Discussions are being held as to whether YRCS would like to have a food booth at the Nevada County Fair.

This is the first year the foundation is attempting to have a parent representative from each grade. The first grade representative has just dropped off. Also all three kindergartens, 4th and 5th grade lack representatives.

The group is kicking off the annual fund drive with a goal of achieving \$100,000. The appeal letter will be distributed the week of February 15. Follow-up phone calls will be made after the February school break. The group is also establishing better relationships with alumni families, grandparents, and extended families. They are requesting names and addresses from the community for potentially interested donors.

e. Faculty - Leila Barber

Much activity surrounding the Waldorf Charter School Conference where CB will present the keynote address and Carrie Reuther will present on the virtues project.

Webinars prepared by Eugene Schwartz were approved by administration for access by the teachers. They provide wonderful insight into Waldorf methodologies for low cost and time investment.

f. Charter Council Chair - Torrie Mudd: **TM appoints CB as interim chair, unless otherwise agreed, if she is unable to attend a CC meeting.**

7. Closed Session - 5:12 PM

- a. Discussion with appointed negotiator for lease with Bitney Springs LLC
- b. Discussion with the appointed negotiator for purchase of property on R&R Hwy.
- c. Director's presentation of certificated faculty evaluations

8. Reconvene and Report out of Closed Session: 6:30 PM

- a. Discussion held - no action taken
- b. Discussion held - no action taken
- c. Director presented five faculty evaluations

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items and Action Items

February 2011:

- Is temporary funding needed to initiate new school facility design prior to receipt of state funding?
- Shall new funding agreements and MOUs with the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and the Charter School Finance Authority (CSFA) be approved?
- Shall the lease to extend use of the Bitney Springs campus be approved?
- Shall the lease for the tenants at the Old Dairy Building to be approved?
- Shall the second interim budget be approved?
- Shall a new employment contract for **Deborah**, the new attendance clerk, be approved?

March 2011:

- Shall the CC elect a Treasurer to Parent Council?
- Shall the director evaluation be approved?

Action Items

- RW to ask Joe Fajen to contact SE regarding him taking over Parent Education activities.

10. Call to Adjourn - Note time 6:32 PM

Respectfully Yours,

**Mariana Neilsen
Charter Council Secretary**