



CHARTER COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of March 9, 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 - 3:30 PM

CC Present: Caleb Buckley (CB), Susan Egan (SE), Doris Rainville (DR), Leila Barber (LB), Dan Martinez (DM) 3:45 PM, Torrie Mudd (TM), Robert Wallis (RW), Mariana Nielsen (MN), Newman Peery (NP)

2. Public Comment

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.

The council accepted three letters of support for Ms. Heather Peery.

3. Consent Agenda Action Items: LB 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously

a. Shall the CC approve the resolution for line of credit with the CA Credit Union?

b. Shall the CC approve revisions to the 2010/11 school calendar and Instructional Minutes replacing two snow days with school days on April 25th and May 27th ?

4. Discussion Items - None

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Shall the CC approve minutes for 2-9-11 and 3-1-11? RW 1st, DR 2nd - Passed unanimously

- b. Shall the CC approve revisions to the enrollment policy regarding priority for home study students?** MN 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously
Clarified how to handle changes regarding placement on priority lists when priority status changes during a school year.
- c. Shall the CC approve resolution to remove excess insurance coverage with SELF Insurance Co.?** RW 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously
Now that YRCS is covered under JPA policies, old insurance policies are no longer needed.
- d. Shall the CC approve applying for exemption from deferrals in funding with the CA Department of Education?** DM 1st, LB 2nd - Passed unanimously
The state of CA is requiring schools to receive funding later than it was originally expected (i.e., defer payment). As a charter school we can justify an exemption from this deferral. If granted, this would solve the cash flow shortfall expected this summer as a result of these deferrals.
- e. Shall the CC approve revisions to the CC By-Laws to re-designate the School Director and Business Manager as non-members?** RW 1st, DM 2nd - Passed unanimously
This change was necessary to be compliant with new laws about non-profit boards.
- f. Shall the CC re-instate its \$7,000 health and welfare benefit cap for the 2010/11 school year?** DM 1st, RW 2nd - Tabled unanimously
Finance committee recommends instituting a cap of \$7,000 per employee per year, as full benefits with no limits is not sustainable for school budget calculations. Faculty has not yet had a chance to discuss an alternative possibility: determining the overall health and welfare benefits allowed for by the budget, calculating what percentage of total needed that this amount represents, and applying this percentage across all employees' benefits. This spreads the cut in benefits across all employees. A concern was raised about how to consider family benefits vs. employee benefits. To be brought back to CC once faculty has discussed.
- g. Shall the CC approve the revised certificated salary plan?** RW 1st, TM 2nd (DM, LB, DR recused themselves) - Passed unanimously
- h. Shall the CC approve an exception to the enrollment policy for the 1st grade waiting list?** NP 1st, DM 2nd - Rejected unanimously
Student is too young for the class by a year, and age readiness is fundamental to Waldorf methodology. Teachers' experience is that it is very challenging for the student and teacher to handle such wide age differences in a class, especially once the students reach the upper grades. Applying exceptions to rules is difficult to manage fairly for all families.
SHINE will be asked to communicate with parents, with MN representing CC.

i. Shall the CC approve the Strategic Plan Rough Draft? NP 1st, DM 2nd -
Moved to discussion item unanimously

Delays prevented the draft to be ready for approval. TM sought assistance and NP volunteered and MN offered to review their results. CB to reschedule Community Meeting at which to present the plan.

Current goals

- draft by 4/8
- comments from participants 4/15
- final by May's CC meeting

6. Reports

a. Director - Caleb Buckley - to include updates on attendance, enrollment, and Bldg. project

- i. Good visit by the County Board of Education. They were pleased with their classroom observations. They visit Charter Schools periodically, especially the ones due for renewal.
- ii. The County Board of Education will be visiting next week for their annual "oversight". Typically, they verify fiscal items.
- iii. Charter Co-op and JPA due next week to kick start the re-chartering process and starting to look at next year's special ed requirements.
- iv. Enrollment looks strong this year. Still marketing for a few open kindergarten spots. Bright note: biggest middle school program ever for our school. Home study is retaining fewer students than hoped. This program and its structure will be evaluated prior to implementation in the fall.
- v. Attendance is looking good, but there are many families with numerous tardies that per YRCS attendance policy require a meeting to discuss the issue with Administration. Also, a handful of families are taking extended vacations.

b. Business Manager - Susan Egan - to include budget report and cash flow update

- i. Interim budget: Good news, since no interim cuts, no need for a third interim budget. Still awaiting news on whether the governor will be able to get his funding options on the state ballot. Even if the tax extensions make it to the ballot, they have to pass. Otherwise, our school faces a \$350 per child cut in next year's budget. This works out to a little over \$100,000 per year directly out of our budget for our school. Some options that are considered: lay offs, contracts without salary increases, cut list of programs and staff in priority order, potential salary cuts. Finance committee has started a list and will send to faculty for prioritization. [Post meeting note: Since this discussion, new possibilities for reducing our rent have emerged that may solve some of these concerns. See minutes from special meetings.]

- ii. Cash flow: applied for a waiver from State of California deferred payments. Presented several prioritized options in case this is denied to carry us until the money from the state arrives.
- iii. No calendar yet for 2011/2012. Nevada Union is still negotiating with their teachers, and YRCS matches the high school schedule to encourage families with multiple children to schedule vacations during school holiday times.
- iv. Kidspace is in the black!
- v. Pre-school is struggling to sustain itself due to all the complications stemming from being flooded out of their space, but is continuing to operate despite the challenges.
- vi. Work on the new school site continues with various updates provided. Highlights: Kick off meeting with environmental team. Carrie Monohan is a new hydrologist volunteer and Kateri Harrison is a new Project Management volunteer.

c. Parent Council (PC) - Robert Wallis

- i. 5th grade has a new rep: Makio Terrel
- ii. Sports budgets continue to be a topic of conversation.
- iii. PC is trying to get a handle on all the on-going costs to fund these types of school activities because funds are dwindling. Good discussion with various fund raising ideas presented.

d. Ed Foundation - Doris Rainville

- i. Kicked off annual fund drive.
- ii. It started much slower than usual.

e. Faculty - Leila Barber

- i. The Parent Appreciation Tea was rescheduled due to snow.
- ii. Teacher appreciation lunch rescheduled to Mar 31.
- iii. Schoolwide assembly/Open House April 14.

f. CC Chair - Torrie Mudd - to include updates on Strategic Plan, Director's evaluation, and Parent Concern follow up

- i. TM passed out copies of FORM 700 for members to report potential financial conflicts of interest to those from whom it was due: LB, SE, DR, DM, TM, CB
- ii. Director Evaluation postponed until April.
- iii. SHINE met with concerned parents in-coming 1st grade parents recently.
- iv. CC elections are approaching. PC will organize.
- v. Attendance up to 96%.

7. Closed Session (5:30 PM)

- a. Shall the CC approve the director contracting with a real estate agent for lease negotiations?
- b. Shall the CC approve the extension of Bldg. lease on LLC Bitney Spring's property?
- c. Shall the CC approve the certificated contracts for teachers and co-teachers grades 1 through 8 for school year 2010/11?

- d. Shall the CC approve the contracts for specialty teachers for middle school swing dance?

8. Reconvene and Report out of Closed Session (6:25 PM)

- a. DM 1st, TM 2nd Approved Unanimously by roll-call: Caleb Buckley, Susan Egan, Doris Rainville, Leila Barber, Dan Martinez, Torrie Mudd, Robert Wallis, Mariana Nielsen, Newman Peery
- b. DM 1st, RW 2nd amended Unanimously by roll-call: Caleb Buckley, Susan Egan, Doris Rainville, Leila Barber, Dan Martinez, Torrie Mudd, Robert Wallis, Mariana Nielsen, Newman Peery
"The CC appoints Susan Egan to further negotiate with the landlord and arrange a walk through to establish the state in which the buildings must be left upon vacating."
- c. TM 1st, RW 2nd Approved Unanimously by roll-call: Caleb Buckley, Susan Egan, Doris Rainville, Leila Barber, Dan Martinez, Torrie Mudd, Robert Wallis, Mariana Nielsen, Newman Peery; LB recused herself for her contract, DM recused himself for his contract, and DR recused herself for her contract.
- d. MN 1st, LB 2nd Approved Unanimously by roll-call: Caleb Buckley, Susan Egan, Doris Rainville, Leila Barber, Dan Martinez, Torrie Mudd, Robert Wallis, Mariana Nielsen, Newman Peery

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items and Action Items

a. April Meeting: Changed to April 6

- i. Shall the CC re-instate its \$7,000 health and welfare benefit cap for the 2010/11 school year?
- ii. Teacher contracts: Preschool and Kindergartens
- iii. Shall the director evaluation be approved?
- iv. How shall the Home Study program be structured next year? Use family surveys and departure letters to evaluate future needs.
- v. Director Report: Faculty Evaluations
- vi. Shall the CC elect a Treasurer to Parent Council?

b. May Meeting

- i. Approve final Strategic Plan.
- ii. Review draft of revised YRCS Charter.
- iii. Review budget for 2011/2012 school year.

c. Action Items

- i. MN to scan hardcopy letter received and send to CC.
- ii. DM to bring health and welfare cap options to faculty for discussion.
- iii. CB to schedule a new Community Meeting. [Post meeting note, this has been scheduled for 4/28.]
- iv. TM to continue spearheading Strategic Plan work.
- v. MN to include in newsletter: Reminder about long vacations.
- vi. TM to include in newsletter: Attendance update (96%!) and thanks to Strategic Planning participants. [post meeting note: submitted.]

- vii. TM, CB, SE to prioritize next set of policies, job descriptions, or other documents that require comprehensive revisions, potentially to schedule a subcommittee over summer to provide recommendations on a few.

10. Call to Adjourn - 6:30 PM

Respectfully Yours,

Mariana Nielsen
Charter Council Secretary

ATTACHMENTS
Letters submitted to CC

We'd like to begin this note by saying that it is sent not to create any sense of divide, but rather a deeper sense of community, a larger village as we see it. If the following is something you oppose, we hope this note does not offend in any way. Further, if you are opposed to these views, please come to Charter Council this Friday to share your thoughts, for the more information we have, the better the decision will be!

Most of you know by now the possibility of YRCS moving to NCE. As we understand it, the vote to move or not to move was originally set for last Friday based on the extraordinary high cost of our current lease and the lack of cooperation that our landlord exhibits. Also from what we understand, the vote was postponed one week to gather much more detailed information on the actual cost of both the move and the new possible lease as our current landlord, in the 11th hour, gave a dramatic price reduction. The staff has worked diligently this entire week comparing all costs, dotting I's and crossing T's to make sure the final decision is a sound one.

All said, we write today because there is a large group of community members that feel--- assuming all costs are apples to apples AND assuming the teaching staff feels that the children would be held best at the NCE property--- that NCE is a much better choice overall, regardless of our current landlord providing a significant price drop.

These are the points we are going to make to Charter Council; if you are in agreement with this thought process, please let us know. If you have more points to add, please respond with them. And again, if you would like your opinion heard either way, the Charter Council meeting is slotted for this Friday.

1) The building.

- A major improvement. Built as a school, not a business park.
- Charming, well lit, full of character and warmth, circular, with a proper entrance to the school.
- includes a much needed auditorium for performances with a stage!
- substantially more classroom space
- proper heating for all grades (the upper grades have been without adequate heating this school year)

2) The grounds.

- soft grass area for the lower grades.
- Plenty of room for sports for upper grades who would no longer have to contend with mud or dust,
- space for a garden, raised beds in place
- Abundant beauty, the colors of all 4 seasons, views of the foothills.
- fenced and full of potential

3) Giving our rent money to the city of Nevada City where many of our families live, work, and exchange commerce rather than an out of the area business man who has been unresponsive, so far, to our needs and requests, including a recent flooding and inadequate heating.

4) Location

-easier access to festivals and events for the larger community, boosting attendance and revenue

-increase in volunteerism

-walkability for some - only one family can do this currently

-shorter drive for the majority

-freeway miles vs. windy country road

-access to trails, library, SYRC, American Rivers, Friends of Deer Creek, historical points of interest, increased engagement and access to the community for upper grade projects

-easier for many to run town errands without commuting on both ends

-access to many nature trails, including a new one being built along Deer Creek, Pioneer trail, Hirschman's pond

-increased visibility within the larger community, giving us a chance to highlight our reputation

-access to the exciting things going on downtown, such as the new Alpha Building plan.

-upper grades could experience off campus freedom for food, outings, etc.

5) Better place to wait in the event that we have to, for whatever reason, while the new school is being constructed.

6) Our teachers

-hearing some of them say they were "skipping down the halls" with excitement cannot be underestimated. They are the backbone of the school.

-they will be better supported by increased volunteerism

-they will be in a facility that was actually built with children and teaching in mind

7) Festivals

-increase in revenue from attendance by larger community and non-YRCS folks at events and festivals

-better venue to hold festivals. current site doesn't offer much in this regard

-possibly more parent participation in festivals

8) Morale

-a chance to begin anew. even if for a few years, we could make it a few years worth of increased school spirit and participation.

9) Lesser overall carbon footprint/gas savings

-for some this may be a new and farther drive, but for many it will not, decreasing our overall "carbon footprint" and decreasing our spending on gas as a community.

10) Less time spent in the car for younger siblings or siblings who get out at different times. The current location means a couple of hours per day spent traveling in a car for some families.

11) Giving the roads back to bicyclists who find it dangerous to travel on this well loved stretch of road with all our vehicle traffic.

12) In conclusion, we understand moving costs are enormous and perhaps the largest factor in this decision. With this in mind, the below families are committed to assist with a significant part of the moving process; involving the following:

-the grunt work of the move

-installation of playground equipment

-painting the classrooms

-moving the library and office

Thank you for that very informative letter. Very clear and very fair, me thinks!

Anyway, even though the move to NCE would be tedious in the short term, i.e., moving, painting, etc., the long term seems to provide many more benefits as you outlined in your letter.

NCE has our Family vote!

We are in favor of the NCE site!. And totally willing to help with the move!

I have thought very hard about this issue. For our family the drive would be almost the same. With that factor out of the equation, I have to look at what is best for our children. I love the rural setting of Yuba River. Our festivals are peaceful and filled with the beauty of nature. Our children are able to be among the tall trees during their days at school. A move

would be costly and extremely disruptive for all involved, especially the children, not to mention a tremendous amount of work for teachers and families during an already too short summer. Without a large financial incentive, the task of moving for a few short years is a huge undertaking that may not be necessary.

I have two major concerns about the NCE campus. One is the lack of parking that will take away from our ability to communicate daily with other parents. The other is the noise and air pollution from the freeway and surrounding traffic.

I love our school and community and will support any choice that is made with an open heart.

I have mixed feelings,

I will miss the forested, current location but would look forward to all the benefits the new space would provide, like volunteering in the class room more! But after seeing the close of the Imaginarium due to earth quake safety I have been wondering about the NCE campus since it is such a large and old building. Anyone know anything about this, is this being looked at?

I very much support the move to the NCE campus.
Thank You for identifying and explaining the reasons,

I am glad you spoke up, people should feel open and not judged to express honest opinions here☺ this is a big decision and a lot to consider, like will some families no longer want to make an even longer commute?Â Because what makes shorter for some adds ten to 20 minutes more for others, so I think the carbon footprint would even out.

Â Probably ridiculous but what are the kids thoughts.

Okay, I don't want to be the poop in the crowd, but I have to admit to having some real reservations about making this move, especially now that the finances are "apples to apples".

We had the opportunity to attend an urban Waldorf school in San Francisco, but chose to look elsewhere. The reason we moved to Grass Valley was to provide our children with a Waldorf education in a rural setting. We fell in love with the trees and the whole feel of the campus, despite, and maybe because, it wasn't a typical school site.

For us, the commute will remain basically the same. I feel really badly for the families who will now have to travel even farther.(for many it was a stretch as is) We were a part of the urban school drop off/ pick up scene for a year while Molly was in a preschool program in SF, and I

have to say I do not look forward to that hurry/scurry again. Unless you get to be one of the families who would now gets to walk, I fear the drop off/ pick up times could be pretty stressful. For me, these times are my community building times, and I would miss that.

As far as increased volunteerism, I question this...it may improve volunteering for those families who will now live closer to the school, but it may make it more difficult for the families whose commute will now be greater. On a personal level, the bulk of Finn's therapies are in Grass Valley proper. Volunteering will now get a bit more difficult for me. :(

Two moves in such a short period of time seems like such a strain on the community as a whole...financially and energywise. I know that two major moves in 3 years would be very stressful for my children. (the Beckers like their routines!)

I was willing to put some of these reservations aside knowing the school would be saving huge amounts of money, but without the financial incentive, I would like to see us stay at our current spot and make do until we get that beautiful new school built.

Well, enough of my griping...we will ultimately go wherever Yuba River travels.

Thank you for your response :) It is always difficult to feel like someone who's possibly "bringing down" a positive outlook...and I very much feel it's important for us to have a positive, yet realistic outlook. Thank you for allowing space for this. In my experience, there is a school community that is made up of the smaller yet more intimate classroom communities. I know that ours is just beginning to truly form and I will say from the past, it is sometimes a little uncomfortable, but ALWAYS SO important that everyone be heard. Often, when one feels that they are not sharing the dominant view, they do not provide feedback, and ultimately, as you said, Nikiya, it can make families feel on the "outside," which we do not want for our classroom or school community. That is why, even though it was difficult, I wanted to voice some strong concerns that I know I am not alone in.

Also, I appreciate your acknowledgement that there is a different environment we are looking at in Nevada City. It is so easy to look at Nevada City's lovely shops, trees, and homes and assume that it will be simple to bring the same feel from our current site to the new one. Maybe it will be, I believe that we can; however I think it will take a different type of effort, for all of the reasons we see when we take a closer look at **all** of the aspects of Nevada City. I really love it there, it's one of my favorite places that ever I've experienced on this earth; but I also know our children will benefit from someone checking the playground early each Monday morning (for example).

I will admit that after being at YRCS' current location for all of my children's school years, I am grieving the loss of a beautiful place that holds years of wonderful accumulated energy, created by the love of faculty, parents, and most importantly, our children, but also by the beautiful element of nature. Rhiannon actually cried and expressed anger when I told her that the school might move, and she doesn't even attend there any more! :) All in all, I know we will need to support one another (especially those who will actually be driving further, as they are just as important to our community), and our children in all of the challenges, a healthy transition, and probably a bit of a grieving process.

I have been taking Kai-po and Nadine to NCE and we are all admiring the potential. Nadine does not want to leave our current site, Kai-po wants to know how we're going to get the ship there :) We are all excited to imagine the potential of a large assembly room--more cost saving and comforting in some way. There are certainly perks beyond the budget. I just had to speak about some of my biggest worries because I want to know that the school community is aware, and am curious about what we will do to address them.

Really, I feel like it would be great to have some type of class potluck to process all of this face to face, to let everyone say what they are excited about and what they are worried about, and to talk about how we can support our children and each other in having a healthy transition that is SOO big.

Take care, and again, thank you for putting this out there. It was nice to have an email forum available to our class. It was very insightful and thoughtful of you.

I just want you to know that I read this twice and am deeply moved by your thoughtfulness and the perspective you have to offer. My fear in putting my own opinion out there so openly was

around alienating others or creating an environment in which everyone did not feel welcome to participate in the dialogue. This is a really big decision and affects so many people in so many different ways. I live downtown Nevada City, and do not see it with rose colored lenses. There are some real mental health cases, juvenile issues, homelessness, etc. that we don't currently have to contend with. Quite honestly, I did not really even take that into account. I imagined that what we experience at our current site will be transported onto the NCE campus. Maybe. Maybe not. In the end, I trust our school governing bodies to make the right decision. This has been an incredible opportunity for us to grow as a community, and if nothing else, has been a display of the love and dedication all of the parents have for the school and what it offers our children. I really just wanted to thank you for your words and your insight. Your years at the school offer an invaluable perspective.

I am so happy to finally be part of the 3rd grade email :) I have pasted-in my response to a similar email circulation in first grade, as I feel the same. The only change in my opinion would be if we actually would not really save much money with the recent offer by our current landlord to reduce our rent. If this is the case, besides bargaining for the landlord to repair the heating in the upper grades, I feel VERY strongly that we should stay at our current site, save some significant stress, and focus on the new permanent site over the next three years (or more :). For all of the reasons below:

I know that I missed the "input" session, but that's o.k., because really, I know the school will do what we need to do to survive. As a parent who has been at YRCS for over 9 years, I want to say that it is important to me to make decisions based on all of the reasons mentioned "for" moving.

I also want to say that to me, honestly, it is NOT all just "community," but what is also important to me, as a parent, is the "physical" environment. So, hoping that everyone really hears my *support* for doing what we need to do temporarily, I want to share my concerns, which others may also have.

1) There is a lot of traffic in the new location (I know this for a fact; I am a mental health worker and, in part, some of my duties include the support of families in the juvenile justice system, which requires spending significant time at the court house and in this area of Nevada City--it's crowded already, I assure you)

2) When a school exists in a town or city location, more supervision is needed--period. **In every way**--kids cannot be allowed to sort of "play" and wander about as they currently do in our location that feels very secluded and private. They will be in close proximity to multiple "types" of people who frequent the court system. In addition, supervision of our grounds will be helpful to mitigate issues of graffiti and litter (cigarette butts etc). FYI, some may chose to pretend this is not a "real issue" in our sweet little Nevada City town, but let me assure you that it is very real. I personally live in a nice area of Grass Valley, and technically my children should attend lovely Hennesy. This, like NCE, is a *beautiful*, traditionally built, "oldie but goodie" school, with an AMAZING playground that competes only with our own current lower grade

playground (in my opinion), which was also volutarily built by numerous community members. However, this site is an attraction as an after hours "hang out" for teens and others who do not have alternative places to do their thing. The result is (witnessed by my eyes), used condoms, empty and FULL alcohol bottles, graffiti that is small yet highly offensive (f u written in permanent marker for example).

3) I did not experience childhood in this community, but have a real understanding of how it feels to go to a school surrounded by concrete, so I am a bit relieved to hear that there are others who would be willing or supportive of concrete removal and beautification/re-naturalization of the immediate environment at NCE, but I am worried that due to the fact that the school is on a very steep hill, this would be difficult to get through city council, current building codes etc.

SOO, now that I have relayed a lot of the ney-sayer opinion, again, I want to say I wish for this school to survive, and thrive, and believe in it's possibility to do so. When Rhiannon (now a thriving freshman at Ghidotti) was in first grade, as Nadine now is, we faced a similar bleak situation. At that time, Terri Anne was our principal. We faced the permanent and temporary lay-offs of all specialty teachers (many do not know we once had German and Spanish, eurhythmy, and drama for the older grades...at varying degrees of frequency and permanence). At that time, Rhiannon's teacher, at the first grade level, faced the challenge of NOT having an assistant. In addition, we had NO games teacher, NO handwork teacher etc etc. Astonishingly, the school simply asked humbly for any assistance that could be volunteered. For me (and many others), who could not donate money, It was empowering to have an opportunity to support this environment in a very important way. It was absolutely amazing to see the turn-out for parents to supervise playground time so teachers could get a bathroom/water/breather break; parents who came in to teach handwork (Deanna and I learned to knit from Mrs. Rose (the wife of our teacher) and Eileen (a parent). The "community" came together to make sure our kids had games class (which I taught for two weeks; we all signed up for what we could handle), and other specialty clases. Although this was difficult, it brought all of us very close together, more than being on a "donation list" could ever do. I am not proposing this is the solution for this situation and time, I am only wanting to emphasize my earlier statement that I TRULY believe that we will do what we need to do, and that our school will survive, and hopefully continue to thrive.

That being said, I want to know, assuming that this was passed, how can we ENSURE that our children remain in a healthy social AND PHYSICAL environment. I do not, and know that none of us want our children to find grafitti or condoms on their playground, nor do I prefer the concrete and cyclone fence no matter how we sugar-coat things to cope with the reality of moving. I want us to all go into this knowing what we are trading. And know that, no matter how "run down" or un-attended the current buildings are, in order to keep what we have at our current physical site, it will also take commitment, work, and vigilance...not to mention a lot of prayers/positive thoughts and realistic problem-solving.

The opinion that I have is why I waited until after the vote. We will do what works best now, and I believe in the passion our parents have. I am just a little unsettled by the pretense that this will all be okey dokey if we plant a garden. It will take more and we will be challenged in different ways than we currently are. I appreciate Angela's comments, and having worked

shortly in inner-cities and cities, I agree, it is amazing the environment a child can thrive in, and I am NOT trying to compare Nevada City to San Francisco or LA. I do want to say I live here by choice, and part of my choice to drive to where ever this school is located is partly community, but also a lot environment---just like I chose to live in Nevada County partially for the environmental factor. I have purposely LOVED this school for the same reason; I do not want to lose it the "magic" that is felt by our children just by being around nature, just as all of you.

We just wanted to voice our support to the potential NCE relocation provided that it is cost effective to do so all things considered, there is sufficient space to house all current programs including Little Creek, and the faculty is in support of the move. We believe that the benefits that the NCE facility offers at a reduced rent outweighs those of our current location and facility.

One of those " all things considered" is whether a temporary relocation of three or five years duration within the city limits of Nevada City would jeopardize our funding for construction of a new school. This may be a non-issue. However, rolling around in the back of my head is that we received funding because we were designated a "rural school site" and that this designation placed a geographic limitation on how far distant from our present site we could buy land and construct a new school. We think that this merits investigation, if it has not already been done. Simply stated the question is would a temporary relocation within the Nevada City city limits until a new school could be built change our designation as a rural school for purposes of the eligibility for current funding of a new school site.

A related but secondary issue is whether there are existing facilities like NCE (and recently announced Gold Run) that are currently vacant or may be vacant in the next year or two that might meet the schools's needs with additional new construction and whether there is leeway under the existing grant and authorizing legislation to do hybrid thing. This might get us into a permanent location sooner and may be more cost-effective for the school and the state in the long run.

Thanks to all who are working to gather all the information necessary to make an informed decision on behalf of our school community.

I really feel so many of your concerns as well [as writer above who started "I am so happy to finally be part of the 3rd grade email"]. Having a Kindergartener walk the streets for a morning walk is not settling well with me. I've yet to see how the upper and middle grades will be divided on the play ground. And a lot more... Not sure how our opinions are being looked at? Im hoping at the next meeting unlike the last we can have question/answered time? I love how our parents are so involved in either direction we go.

Hello,

I heard we would save \$250,000 over the next three years. Not \$1.4 million a year. I also heard that the landlord has agreed to match this. Not sure if this is true or just a

rumor. I took Casey to the NCE this weekend. She did not like it. She commented on the lack of parking, the lack of play structures on the playground, and the size of the playground (it's so small). I didn't see a grassy field that I heard people talk about. I was hoping to feel better about the move once I saw the school. Well I don't. I still feel that if we can save the same amount staying where we are that is what we should do. Stay in the beautiful setting we have been at for the past 12 years. Many of us came to the school not only because of it being a Waldorf school but also because of it's setting. Connor was in the first kindergarten class at the current site. We have seen the campus grow over the past 12 years into what it is today. Yes the building does need some attention. I say put that in the contract. Tell the landlord we want certain things fixed and want the rent decreased significantly and then we will stay. I can't even imagine what traffic is going to be like when we all pull up to drop our kids off at NCE. I keep hearing that the neighborhood wants it to stay a school. What do you think the neighborhood is going to say when over 100 cars pull up in the morning to drop kids off and then again in the afternoon to pick them up? Does the neighborhood realize most kids are going to be driven to school and not be walking? If my kids only had one more year I probably wouldn't care too much where the campus was but Ty has four more years and I would like him to continue at the beautiful campus we chose to go to. Casey said she would rather move to Gold Run. They have a big grassy field to play on. Could this be a possibility??

If it were your family's income at risk for positions having to be cut - or potentially being saved by making this move - you might be having different thoughts.... In my opinion, if we can save even one job for one of our community family members, we should do everything we can to do that. Times are hard for everybody and saving money and saving our friends' jobs should be priority in this economy. My third cent...

Here is my 2 cents worth...

I'm approaching this from a big picture vision rather than my own personal input. Since I am one that has a long drive to school and I have been doing it for 8 years, yes, the move would benefit me, but if this decision means that I have to keep driving the distance, I will.

It has been said that the school could save \$1.4 million a year with this move. If this is true, saving teachers and other administrators jobs should be at the top of the list. Keeping programs in place are another. If we could put a piece of this money in place to do the aforementioned, and save the rest for building the new school, I think that would be wise. Since money is hard to come by these days and it seems like fundraising is a constant process, this would be the smarter way to go. Plus the fact that state funding is being cut.

I know that moving would incur a cost, but in the long run it would benefit us. It is always better to have a one time smaller cost than have a large re-occurring payment. Unless the current landlord is willing the beat the deal that NCE would offer, saving \$1.4 Million is best. There are

some trade offs, but I think in the long run we would be better off in the NCE location and for the health and longevity of YRCS. If by moving we could help the Nevada City School District as well as keep teachers with jobs, the current landlord would have to present a hell of a deal to equal the NCE possibility.

If we could save half of the \$1.4 million (since we are doing with out it now) a year, the school could bank \$2.25 Million dollars over a 3 year period. That is quite a substantial savings to have in the bank.

I think when it comes to the money saving issue, we would be foolish to base our decision on something as small as a rural setting.