



Yuba River Charter School

CHARTER COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of May 25, 2011
3:30pm YRCS Grade 6

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 - 3:35 PM

CC Present: Doris Rainville (DR), Leila Barber (LB), Dan Martinez (DM), Torrie Mudd (TM), Robert Wallis (RW), Mariana Nielsen (MN), Newman Peery (NP)

Guests: Caleb Buckley (CB), Susan Egan (SE)

Jean Remley (JR) and Raelynn Noel (RN) (until after the Home Study discussion)

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.

MN asked that materials for CC meetings be available at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda Action Items - None

4. Discussion Items

a. Update on NC move.

- Larry Hierman has been hired as volunteer coordinator to handle the move. Ed Welch is organizing U-haul trucks and drivers. A group is moving playground equipment the weekend after school lets out.

- The current YRCS sign will be presented for approval at the 6/2/11 Nevada City Council meeting.
- School start time: NCE started at 8:30 AM. CB to discuss start time with Nevada City. Faculty will also discuss their preferences. Staggered start times, allowing the kindergarten and/or preschool to start at 8:45, are being considered.
- Sherry Brown is heading a group to improve the outside areas at NCE. DM's 3rd grade class will build planter boxes to be used.
- CB has asked RW to assist in working with the city to determine the best traffic pattern for drop off and pick up.

5. Discussion/Action Items

Motion to move item c up to the first action item to accommodate guests: LB 1st, DM 2nd

c. Shall CC approve the Home Study program proposal for 2011-12 school year? Tabled

- RN, with JR, presented a proposal to revise the Home Study Program. It included a roughed out budget and a presentation of a strong 2 day/week hands on farm component at the Sierra Friends Center. Concerns were expressed that the program was significantly more expensive than the current in-class curriculum. Also, that adding a large program such as the farm component would be a lot to take on at the beginning of such a new program. More precision was also needed in the budget, including better estimates of faculty time required. A request was made to see the materials that would be presented to prospective families to describe the program. RN and JR will present a revised program to faculty during the in-service week so that a final can be brought to CC.

Motion to consider items e and f next and together: RW 1st, TM 2nd

e. Shall CC approve the changes to the health and welfare benefit package for the 2011-12 school year?

f. Shall CC approve the stipend for mentoring for 2011-12 school year? Passed unanimously with recusals by DR, LB, DM

- CC had previously recommended a cap on health and welfare benefits of \$7,000 each. However, new actual insurance premiums and a recent poll of nearby, similar schools by LB show that \$8,000 is more standard and allows coverage of most eligible staff.
- Budget concerns have eased due to improved projections from the State and improved rent expenses.
- Two employees will still face a significant cut in salary due to this cap, and both have additional roles at the school in the form of being strong mentors to other faculty. It was decided to compensate for these mentoring activities with a \$3,200 and \$2,200 stipend, based on finance committee recommendation.

Motion to consider item b next: NP 1st, RW 2nd

b. Shall CC approve the Little Creek program proposal for 2011-12 school year to include a \$1,000 stipend for the Little Creek director? - Passed unanimously as amended

- Parents were sent a letter announcing that a 3 day/week program is set, and with sufficient interest an additional 2 day/week program may be added. With 10 children for 3 days a week, the program can pay for itself. For now, the program

will be housed at YRCS, though exploration to find a nearby house rental to hold the program continues.

- A stipend of \$1,000 for the director is approved to allow time to re-license the new playground and set up the new program and space.

a. Shall CC approve the school budget for school year 2011-12? LB 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously

The governor of CA has recommended a flat budget for schools for 2011-12. This is a huge improvement over expected cuts of between \$350-800/student originally expected. We are still asked to keep a sizeable reserve in the event of future needed cuts. However, no additional money is needed and YRCS saved a large expense by improving its rent requirement. This allows progress to be made towards certain goals.

- Salary placements can be fully funded as approved in previous meetings. All staff will receive some salary increase over 2010-11.
- Health and welfare caps are increased to \$8,000.
- An increase in various stipends.
- An increase in custodian hours from 4 hours/day to 6 hours/day which allows the employee to receive benefits.
- CC understands that as the situation is now, the reduced rent expenses are a 3 year temporary situation as the mortgage payments for the site on Rough and Ready will be equivalent to the original Bitney Springs rent. Therefore, careful consideration will be needed for long term planning.

b. (moved to earlier item of discussion, see above) Shall CC approve the Little Creek program proposal for 2011-12 school year

c. (moved to earlier item of discussion, see above) Shall CC approve the Home Study program proposal for 2011-12 school year?

d. Shall CC approve the final lease for NCE? LB 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously

- SE assisted in creating a lease acceptable to both parties that included rent terms, occupancy dates, maintenance sharing agreements, and other necessary details.
- The one exception was CC's original goal of confirming an option to rent the facility for an additional 2 years if needed, at an agreed rate. Legal review of state law indicates that school districts are not in a position to offer greater than 3 year terms for their facilities. A letter of intent was signed earlier signifying the district's overall concurrence with the proposal, but a formal agreement cannot be made for 2 more years. As of now, the need for these additional years is not anticipated.
- Keys are expected on June 1.

e. (moved to earlier item of discussion, see above) Shall CC approve the changes to the health and welfare benefit package for the 2011-12 school year?

f. (moved to earlier item of discussion, see above) Shall CC approve the stipend for mentoring for 2011-12 school year?

6. Closed Session - 5:30 PM

The Council invited in: Guests: Caleb Buckley (CB) and Susan Egan (SE); CB stayed for early discussion, then left the room while CC continued discussion and voted: DM 1st, NP 2nd - Passed unanimously

- a. Shall CC approve benefit request from the director for 2010-11 school year?

7. Reconvene and Report out of Closed Session: 6:15 PM

- a. Shall CC approve benefit request from the director for 2010-11 school year for one time only? - DM 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously as amended

8. Next Meeting Agenda Items and Action Items

a. June Meeting

- Treasurer position
- CC bylaws, including a change to the routine meeting time
- Home Study Program
- Minutes 5/11/11 and 5/25/11
- School start time

b. July Meeting

- It is anticipated there will be at least construction contracts that require approval.

c. Sep Meeting

- Charter Renewal Draft

d. Action Items

- Faculty to discuss school start time for 2011-12.
- Faculty to discuss new Home Study Proposal.
- CB to discuss school start time with Nevada City.
- CB and RW to work with the city to determine the best traffic pattern for drop off and pick up.

9. Call to Adjourn - 6:15 PM

Respectfully Yours,

Mariana Nielsen
Charter Council Secretary