



Yuba River Charter School

CHARTER COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of July 27, 2011
1:00pm NCE - Conference Room

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 - 1:16 PM

CC Present: Doris Rainville (DR), Leila Barber (LB), Torrie Mudd (TM), Robert Wallis (RW), Mariana Nielsen (MN)

CC Absent: Dan Martinez (DM)

Guests:

Caleb Buckley (CB), Director

Susan Egan (SE), Business Manager

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 - None

4. Discussion Items

Not on agenda: It was announced that Newman Peery has stepped down as a member of the Charter Council to pursue other commitments.

a. Installation/placement of playground equipment?

Ed Welch sent a letter asking for direction to organize a playground improvement project. The CC was very enthusiastic and supportive of parents coming together for this important task. It was noted that installing playground equipment was scheduled for approximately 10

days before school start and the placement would be approved by faculty including at a minimum Dan Martinez, Leila Barber, and Carrie Reuther. Administration and Faculty asked that for the first few weeks of school, the playground be evaluated for functionality. Details of how various lunch/recess/games periods would interact in the yard are still being worked out and this could influence playground designs. Also, it was encouraged to form a group of parents to form consensus on the best changes that will fit with our school lease, infrastructure needs, and budget. Designs/budgets for these later phases of playground improvement would be recommended by this committee to CC for approval later in the year. Carrie Reuther, third grade teacher, volunteered the 3rd grade class for a construction project. Dan Martinez' third grade class last year built planter boxes to be used at new site. Ed Welch and Sheri Dion are parents that have expressed interest in this project. MN will contact them to see if they can be available during School Registration Day to recruit more parents.

b. CC Treasurer position - Robert and Susan

SE's draft letter to solicit CPA volunteers from the community was received favorably by CC. She will send this out to prospects.

c. CC Parent Council Rep (PC) and CC Ed Foundation (EF) Rep and whether non-voting members can represent CC at these meetings.

CC can be represented by non-members who frequently attend CC meetings, such as CB and SE. CB will represent CC on EF, as he typically attends these meetings. He attends many PC meetings, but not all. Other CC members will rotate responsibility for attending PC when CB cannot. CB will create a draft schedule.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. Shall the council approve Minutes for 5/11/11, 5/25/11, and 6/16/11? - LB 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously

b. Shall the council approve and authorize entering into a contract to retain Scott Brown Law Offices for the purpose of issuing an opinion letter regarding conditional use permit requirements for Rough & Ready building project along with payment of a \$2,500 retainer. - RW 1st, DR 2nd - Passed unanimously

Because the law in this area is complicated and differs for typical school districts and charter schools, legal counsel will be sought. This law firm was recommended and has experience in this area.

c. Shall CC approve the YRCS Strategic Plan? - Tabled until August

d. Shall the CC approve the job description for Home Study Coordinator position? - Tabled until August

Progress has been made to formalize this position and the new program and will be ready for approval at next meeting.

e. Shall the council approve entering into a contract with College Park Friends Educational Association to lease farm land for the home study program for the 2011-12 school year? - DR 1st, MN 2nd - Passed unanimously

This property is also known as the Woolman's Center/Sierra Friends Center, which is operated by College Park Friends Educational

Association. Favorable rates that vary by enrollment needs were offered. The Home Study Coordinator will be responsible for understanding and complying with all policies and conditions of use.

6. Reports

a. Director - Caleb Buckley - to include updates on Bldg. project and Charter renewal (draft to CC at August meeting)

- This is a big year for outreach at YRCS. One recent example is the upcoming Conference for Charter Schools (California Charter School Association). Per CB's recommendations, they will now include break-out sessions for Waldorf Methods schools and offer support for out of state groups to attend. CB has been asked to present the new JPA (Joint Powers Agency) strategy for Special Ed.
- Requests for use of the Auditorium are already being received from the community. A policy regarding use will be developed and approved by CC.
- Monday, August 22 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM is the first annual School Registration Day and CC members are asked to be in attendance.
- Building site update: Ingress/egress through easement is current hot topic. The rough design plan has been approved. Administration and the building team are now performing a room by room review.
- It was discovered that Charter Schools cannot take advantage of an exemption from building rules offered to other school districts called "lease/lease back". We will have to send our project out to bid for construction.
- The new site has less square footage than NCE, including no current plans for preschool, kidspace and home study. Solutions will be sought over the coming 3 year construction project. EF will be asked to communicate these needs to the community to seek funds and/or creative solutions.
- YRCS 7th and 8th grade classes received the opportunity to operate the slushy booth at the county fair, a potentially lucrative and fun fund raiser. Proceeds will be split evenly between 7th and 8th grade Fieldtrip Funds and EF.

b. Business Manager - Susan Egan

- It's been a very busy summer and throughout it all James Robinson and Jim Inman have been a continuous source of help and support.
- Originally, there were issues with the county regarding our storage container on Old Dairy Rd, but these have been resolved and a 3 year permit has been obtained.
- Neighbors will be included in planning as much as possible during construction to help seek their support. A meeting will be scheduled.
- Worked on letter to attorney regarding conditional use permit requirements for Rough & Ready building project.
- Almost closed with remaining items at Bitney Springs site. A few minor repairs were made. Final payments/receipts regarding rent for flooded building and YRCS deposit are still being negotiated.
- YRCS representatives have been attending Summer Nights street fairs in Nevada City to present the YRCS program, and offer information regarding enrollment in open programs such as preschool and Home Study.
- Thanks will be presented at the School Registration Day to those offering so much support during the recent move including: James

Robinson, Jim Inman, Ed Welch, Larry Hierman, George Cutter, and Makio Terrell.

c. Parent Council - Robert Wallis

- No recent meetings

d. Ed Foundation - Caleb Buckley

- No recent meetings
- The end of the year meeting was sparsely attended and not much was discussed. The end of the year check from EF to YRCS was presented.

e. Faculty - Leila Barber

- No recent meetings
- Teachers have been really busy setting up new classrooms.
- Many teachers attended Steiner College seminars over the summer. Heather Peery attended a training with Eugene Schwartz in Pennsylvania.
- Teachers are starting to work on their curriculums for next year.
- Patricia Montijo is busy developing the first portion of the Home Study curriculum.

f. CC Chair - Torrie Mudd

- Nothing to report.

7. Closed Session - 2:00 PM

The Council invited in: Guests: Caleb Buckley (CB) and Susan Egan (SE):
LB 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously

- a. Shall the council approve purchase of easement for ingress/egress from Adams Avenue to Rough & Ready building project?
- b. Shall the council approve contracts for 3rd grade co-teacher, 3rd grade classroom aide, kidspace coordinator, and custodian for 2011/12 school year?

8. Reconvene and Report out of Closed Session: 2:30 PM

a. Shall the council approve purchase of easement or lot acquisition for ingress/egress from Adams Avenue to Rough & Ready building project?-
DR 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously as amended

b. Shall the council approve contracts for 3rd grade co-teacher, ~~3rd grade classroom aide~~, 2nd grade co-teacher, 1st grade co-teacher, kidspace coordinator, and custodian-Lavender Kindergarten Assistant for 2011/12 school year? LB 1st, MN 2nd - Passed unanimously as amended

- 3rd grade co-teacher: Elise Hierman
- 2nd grade co-teacher: Andrea Weeks
- 1st grade co-teacher: Karen Geisler
- Lavender Kindergarten Assistant: Jerilee Martinez

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items and Action Items

a. August Meeting

- Minutes 7/27/11
- Treasurer position
- Schedule for CC rep to PC.
- Shall CC approve the YRCS Strategic Plan?
- Job description for Home Study Coordinator position
- Job description for Director

- Bldg site update
- Remaining employee contracts
- NCE Building Use Policy, including Auditorium
- Charter Renewal Draft
- Plan CC retreat
- Plan Registration Day

b. September Meeting

- Charter Renewal Draft

c. Action Items

- MN to contact Ed Welch and Sheri Dion to see if they can be available during School Registration Day to recruit more parents for playground improvement committee.
- SE to send letter to community CPAs to solicit a volunteer treasurer for CC.
- CB will create a draft schedule of CC member attendance at PC.
- CB to ask EF to communicate needs for new school building with community to seek support.
- CB will organize a meeting with neighbors of the Rough and Ready school site to describe plans, solicit feedback, and seek support.
- SB and TM to acquire and present thank you gifts for strong supporters of move by Registration Day.
- CB to bring CC retreat days to EF and invite them to attend Saturday afternoon activities.

10. Call to Adjourn - 3:15 PM

Respectfully Yours,

Mariana Nielsen
Charter Council Secretary