



CHARTER COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of November 2, 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 first 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 – 3:39 pm

CC Present: Carrie Reuther (CR), Leila Barber (LB), Dan Martinez (DM), Kathy Eldredge (KE), Torrie Mudd (TM), Robert Wallis (RW), Mariana Nielsen (MN)

Absent: None

Guests:

Caleb Buckley (CB), Director

Susan Egan (SE), Business Manager

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.

Paula Barber spoke about her views that as a public charter school that is open to all, regardless of ability to pay, YRCS should not offer priority enrollment to students that attend our private preschool.

3. Consent Agenda Action Items

- a. **Shall the council approve warrants from July 1 through Sept. 30, 2011 as reviewed and submitted by the Finance Committee?** RW 1st, LB 2nd - Passed unanimously



4. Discussion Items

a. Playground beautification update -include blacktop painting

MN presented progress by the playground committee, including drawings created by Makio Terrell showing potential spots for various blacktop games. Plans to be finalized and brought to PC for approval and then to CC for approval at next meeting.

b. Discuss Mission Statement status and process.

TM brought revised mission and vision statements. General agreement with some minor edits. New versions will be used in charter and elsewhere as needed.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. **Shall the council approve minutes for 10-5-11?** DM 1st, CR 2nd - Passed unanimously with revisions incorporated regarding details in director report about the upper grades math program

b. **Shall the council approve the Director's job description (2nd Reading)?** LB 1st, KE 2nd - Passed unanimously with agreed upon edits

Discussion included responsibility for performing job evaluations for contract staff, responsibility to lead Little Creek, wording edits regarding legal and real estate responsibilities.

c. **Shall the council approve revisions to the Educational Specialist/Coordinator job description?** RW 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously with agreed upon edits

d. **Shall the council approve list of cuts to building project and prioritize restoration as funds become available?** DM 1st, LB 2nd – Agreed to delegate prioritization of the reinstating cuts as funds become available to the building committee

List of all cuts that have now become hoped for "improvements" was provided for CC to review. Any further needed cuts would be brought to CC for discussion/approval.

e. **Shall the council approve the following contracts for the building project?** KE 1st, DM 2nd – unanimously moved to closed agenda as contract related

f. **Shall the council approve 1st interim budget and attachments (summary, narrative, multi-year projections, cash flow)?** DM 1st, TM 2nd – Tabled

Due to the timing of meetings, all data is not yet available. This item will be handled at a special meeting early in December. An overview of the general situation was presented. To date, a loss of ~\$88,000 is noted due mostly to a \$262/student reduction in ADA and 5 less students enrolled than projected. The loss of ADA was anticipated and is covered with ~\$84,000 in reserves set aside for this.



g. Shall the council approve the YRCS Charter Renewal? RW 1st, KE 2nd – Tabled

CB discussed the political nature of chartering. Currently, we are a district wide charter, but this may not be possible for the next period of our charter. CB and other charter school directors continue to meet to discuss best possible strategies.

Faculty reviewed the curriculum section during the recent teacher in-service day. A large document comparing typical CA curriculum with Waldorf curriculum will be referenced in the charter with one chapter excerpted as an example.

Good news to report in the charter: YRCS 7th and 8th grade STAR testing is the best in the county. YRCS student body is more diverse than the county and 48% qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, meaning that we educate typically underserved populations with good results. Our financial house is in order. In general, we are “a thriving school during tough times” and will show this in the Charter Renewal.

h. Shall the council approve the YRSC Strategic Plan? MN 1st, DM 2nd – Tabled

Much progress has been made on the Strategic Plan. A bit more work and specific and agreed to goals are required in sections on pp 7-9. Once CC and participants provide comments, this will be revisited.

6. Reports - ~6:45 PM (after closed session)

a. Director – Caleb Buckley

- Update: Marguerite Vulfs, Little Creek Director, broke her knee and is out healing for several weeks. CB organizing substitutes. May increase pay of assistant to acknowledge her increased responsibilities as a result.
- Annual report out to parents and donors this week.
- Faculty In-service: Reviewed curriculum
- Lots of major projects on-going: Applying for 501c3 (SE), Charter Renewal (CB), Strategic Plan (TM), developing materials to seek donors for the new building site (MS), four Parent Ed evenings planned.

b. Business Manager – Susan Egan

- All CC members to submit conflict of interest and job description receipt acknowledgements
- Update provided in above items, especially interim budget discussion

c. Parent Council - Caleb Buckley

- Developing a budget
- Have ~\$6,000 in reserves and discussing how/whether/how much to allocate
- Discussions about how to support the sports program. Coaches may be asked to develop budgets for review and consideration.

d. Ed Foundation – Caleb Buckley (RW left at start of Reports section)

- Recently held a 6 hour retreat.
- Feel strongly that the school’s website needs overhaul.



- Want to partner with other non-profits such as SYRCL, e.g. share mailing lists and festivals ++

e. Faculty – Leila Barber

- Teaching!
- Successful Halloween Festival
- In-service day on curriculum, including review of good progress on Home Study materials being developed
- Preparing for evaluations by respected Waldorf experts George Hoeffeker and Eugene Schwartz
- Preparing for Parent/Teacher conferences

f. CC Chair – Torrie Mudd

- Working on survey results: distributing each person's specific comments to them and general faculty comments to full staff. Will include a summary of big issues in upcoming newsletter.

7. Closed Session: ~6:00 pm

The Council invited in guests: Caleb Buckley (CB) and Susan Egan (SE): CR 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously

a. Shall the council approve the purchase agreement for Adams street property?

b. Shall the council approve the following contracts for the building project?

- Holdredge & Kull Cleanup Plan for Kenny Ranch property.
- Kenny Ranch Lot Line Adjustment with Nevada City Engineering for Kenny Ranch property.
- Youngdahl Consulting Geotech study for Kenny Ranch property.
- Beedy Environmental Consulting Biological Inventory for Kenny Ranch property.

8. Reconvene and Report out of Closed Session 6:40 pm

a. The council approved the purchase agreement for Adams street property.
LB 1st, TM 2nd - Passed unanimously

b. The council approved the following contracts for the building project: DM 1st, RW 2nd - Passed unanimously with one absent (CR left at this point), all items taken together

- Holdredge & Kull Cleanup Plan for Kenny Ranch property.**
Plan for soil and lead cleanup
- Kenny Ranch Lot Line Adjustment with Nevada City Engineering for Kenny Ranch property.**
Lot line adjustment
- Youngdahl Consulting Geotech study for Kenny Ranch property.**
Geotechnical work and hazardous studies



- iv. approved as amended: **Approved up to \$3,000 for Biological Inventory for Kenny Ranch Property per approval of Building Team.**

9. Next Meeting Agenda Items

a. December Special Meeting

- Charter Renewal
- First Interim Budget

b. December Meeting

- Approve Strategic Plan
- Approve Playground Improvement Plan
- Approve minutes CC 11/2/2011 and amended minutes for 9/7/2011 to include participants

c. Future Meetings, exact date to be determined

- Enrollment Policy, specifically to included discussion about priority for Little Creek students to the Kindergartens.
- Review policy for contract staff, especially how they are evaluated

d. Action Items

- TM to provide MN final copy of vision and mission statements for publication in the newsletter.
- CB to provide MN with STAR data for YRCS and other county charter school 7th and 8th graders so she may create a graph to include in Charter Renewal.
- All CC to carefully review and provide ideas for highlighted sections on pp 7-9 of Strategic Plan.
- Faculty to review teacher evaluation process.
- TM to summarize big issues from the Parent survey in the newsletter.

10. Call to Adjourn – 7:25 pm

Respectfully Yours,

Mariana Nielsen
Charter Council Secretary