

**Parent Council Minutes  
11-17-10**

**1 - Call to Order**

**2 - Role Call/Class Check In**

Lavender Kindergarten	
Rose Kindergarten	Robert Wallis
Sweat Pea Kindergarten	Chelsea Baum
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Melissa Seibold
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Fajen
3rd Grade	Mariana Nielsen
4th Grade	
5th Grade	
6th Grade	Catherine Janicke
7th Grade	Veronica Combs
8th Grade	
Chair	Mark Dahlstrom

Faculty  
Administration  
Charter Council

Concerns were expressed over the new boatyard policy that only allows families that are official members of an aftercare co-op to remain in the boatyard during school hours. Families expressed displeasure at feeling unwelcome at their own school. This is especially true due to the remoteness of the school. There are frequently times that families need a bit of time to wait for a friend or sibling. Discussion was held including recent history of co-ops, the a challenge for the third grade to hold class during this time, and recent difficulties getting all parents to cooperate with established rules. It was pointed out that the initial concern this time came from a parent and not administration or faculty. Faculty and administration met to discuss the issue and to develop the best plan for all uses of the yard, leading to the new policy. Parents were reminded that the only thing necessary to become members of a co-op is a signed contract acknowledging receipt of and willingness to adhere to school rules and to be fingerprinted so a background check can be performed. The fingerprinting remains valid for one's entire tenure at YRCS, and will be needed in older grades for overnight fieldtrips.

**3 - Approval of Minutes - Minutes from meeting on October 27, 2010 approved with one change in details for Moondance.**

**4 - Presentation/Discuss**

Stage/Screen Status Mark

Faculty is still working to identify specific items desired to better host on-site assemblies. Robert has spoken with Mr. Martinez who has not yet ruled out a third grade building project to assist in this endeavor. This item will return to the agenda once more information is available.

School Loan Payback Mark

Mark looked up the agreement Parent Council made with the operators of the school store. Parent Council lent the store \$700 with the understanding it would be paid back over two years. This works out to approximately \$35-\$40 a month if they start now and pay when school is in session.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark will notify Paula and get her input on the previously agreed loan payback details for the school store.

**ACTION ITEM:** Final agreement on the school store loan payback details will be added to a future PC agenda.

Moondance Update

Melissa

This year's Moondance goal was to make more than last year.

	Attendance	Gross Proceeds	# Items
Last Year	330	\$35,000	~325
This Year	225	\$37,000	~325

Overall, considering the significantly fewer people, the results improved. It was a beautiful night and a wonderful party.

A recommendation was made for the Moondance committee to investigate whether any Nevada Union alumni that are now members of NFL sports teams or other major sports groups are willing to donate memorabilia to future auctions. This has been brought in very good money for the Nevada Union program.

PC Financial Update

Catherine

The total income and expenses to the PC account during the 2010 school year were provided along with current account balance. A rough approximation is that current day-to-day fund-raising brings in approximately \$100 a month. Most of this money comes from routine programs such as donations from SPD, Briarpatch, Raley's and Holiday Market.

Robert Wallis had the idea to initiate an Amazon storefront for YRCS. Any purchases made at Amazon through this link provide a minimum of 4% payback to the school. The school can also customize the front page to show items of interest such as Waldorf specific items.

**ACTION ITEM:** Robert and Kristin will work together to set up and finalize an Amazon storefront and have it approved by administration.

**ACTION ITEM:** All PC reps are asked to remind parents in the class to use the various fund-raising options so we can continue to raise money for the school while doing normal shopping activities.

**ACTION ITEM:** Catherine will e-mail the details of the field fund accounts by grade.

**ACTION ITEM:** Katherine will determine with Susan Egan whether there is benefit to splitting each field account by grade and whether any bank fees can be waived either by receiving email statements or through other means.

**5 - Vote**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Victorian Christmas Crafts Fundraiser: APPROVED

Fifth through eighth grade and possibly fourth grade are helping the sixth grade to put on a crafts area during Nevada city's Victorian Christmas Fairs. Crafts will include gnome homes and tin tapping, among others. The fundraiser will be held the first three Wednesdays evenings in December along with two Sunday afternoons. These grades will not be participating in the on-site Winter Fair. This activity is a good outreach for the school and a

great fundraising opportunity, but sadness was expressed among parents at the loss of support for the on-site Fair.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Pastie Lunches:

Support was expressed to approve fourth grade's request to sell lunch on Thursdays, pending final information. Final vote will likely be held by e-mail to allow fourth grade to begin as soon as possible.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark to get more details on the fourth grade pastie lunch request, such as

- who is making them
- what varieties will there be
- confirm the day of Thursday
- verify that cooking will be performed in a certified kitchen
- verify whether they are organic

**6 - Action/Discussion**

Charter Council Strategic Planning

Melissa

Charter Council has developed a survey to gather input from families about the long term goals for the school. This information will be used to update the school's formal Strategic Plan. This plan helps focus the school's energy and can be used by grant writers to assist in obtaining funds for the school. The effort is being spearheaded by Kateri Harrison who does this work professionally.

The survey is available online and an e-mail and phone call will be sent to all those on the YRCS distribution list. Additionally, a laptop will be available in the office for those without computer access.

**ACTION ITEM:** All PC reps are requested to pass the word about the strategic planning survey to families in their class to encourage participation before the cutoff date of 12/6.

Approximately 14 people will participate in the strategic planning sessions including members of Parent Council, Charter Council, and the Ed Foundation. Four three-hour meetings are scheduled for the afternoons of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The following people expressed potential interest in volunteering:

- Joe, who has strategic planning books for nonprofits available to share
- Veronica
- Mark
- Chelsea

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark to determine whether child care will be available during these meetings and to finalize the list of volunteers.

Volunteers for Parent Ed Events

Joe

Eugene Schwartz will come to YRCS and present on the evening of December 8 at 6 PM and again on December 9 at 8:30 AM. He is known as a dynamic, funny, much sought after speaker on Waldorf related topics.

It was noted that parent Ed speakers are paid through PC funds. Speakers are typically paid a minimum of \$100. The process for how to get speakers paid was discussed.

The next scheduled speaker is Steven Casperite, the Live Oak games teacher. He will speak on why competitive sports are not encouraged in lower grades and how and why to encourage free play during this stage of development. This event is in the early planning stages

**ACTION ITEM:** Joe will discuss with Susan Egan how to ensure speakers are paid in a timely manner and facilitate getting a check request to Catherine for the Eugene Schwartz event.

**ACTION ITEM:** Joe will work with Melissa to develop a flyer for the Eugene Schwartz event and determining where to post it and ensuring it is submitted to the newsletter.

**ACTION ITEM:** Joe will check in with Lisa regarding the specifics of help she needs to set up and clean up hospitality items for the Eugene Schwartz event.

## 7 - Committee Updates

### Festival Committee

Veronica

Winter Fair update

Anna Reishman and Shannon Becker have volunteered to lead the organization of this year's on-site Winter Fair. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 4 from 9 AM until noon. No food will be available. Families are encouraged to bring their own snacks. Drinks will be available. It is planned for only the lower grades. It will include an Elfin Shoppe of all handmade items, crafts and a Cookie Forest. The four dollar entrance fee includes a trip to the Cookie Forest and all crafts. The Elfin Shoppe is a separate cost.

In the long run, Chelsea would like to set a schedule for festivals. Potentially this could include which class hosts and takes responsibility for running each festival, as well as more detailed class assignments for specific portions of the festival. More brainstorming and planning is needed surrounding how to get more parents involved in the festivals and how to keep the kindergartens participating.

### Hospitality

Lisa

Planning for the Eugene Schwartz event.

### Parent Co-op

Mariana

Two groups have submitted paperwork for aftercare co-ops. Two more promised paperwork. See above under discussion for more details. The option of using either the kindergarten yard or the preschool yard was briefly discussed and rejected. The success of the co-op program will be monitored throughout the year to see if further modifications are required.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mariana two check with office staff to see if any co-op paperwork was submitted directly so she can finalize the list of all participants.

### Parent Ed

Joe

See above under discussion.

### Sports Programs

Allison

Last month PC approved \$150 to the boys basketball team for practice time, half the original request. Approximately 4 to 5 other teams may need funds. PC decided to table the request for additional funds for the basketball team until further information about how much total money all sports programs might need is available.

Veronica is deciding whether to replace Allison as chair of the sports subcommittee.

Treasurer Catherine

See above under Discussion.

Volunteerism Melissa/Robert

The volunteerism committee is still discussing how to best recognize parents for all their hard work during the school year. Typically, the faculty hosts an appreciation tea towards the end of the year for all volunteers.

**ACTION ITEM:** Veronica will send thank you cards to Anna and Shannon for taking on responsibility for the Winter Fair.

**ACTION ITEM:** Robert and Melissa will determine if they would like to do more to recognize significant volunteer contributions, including whom to specifically recognize that the end of the year tea.

**ACTION ITEM:** During any Parent Meeting nights, parent Council reps are asked to remind class parents about the importance of volunteering and to log their hours.

Fundraising Kristin

See above under Discussion.

**8 - Notification Items**

Report from Administration Caleb

Report from Charter Council Allison

Report from Faculty Paula

Report from Ed Foundation

See above under Discussion for Moondance results.

**9 - Talk it Up!**

Parent Ed -- Eugene Schwartz, December 8 at 6 PM and again on December 9 at 8:30 AM  
Winter Fair -- Saturday, December 4 9 AM to noon

**10 - Next Meeting** - Wednesday, 12/15 3:30-5:30 p.m.

**11 - Adjourn**