

Sky Mountain Charter School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

By Zoom Teleconference
1423 W. State Street Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373
August 17, 2017 at 1:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Argi Sayari, Sky Mountain Education Liason, called meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Argi Sayari led all meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME/ROLL CALL

- Attendees: Shihching Wagner, Lynne Kertamus Porter, Nina Case-Miller, Tari O'Neill, Micaela Darr, Sara Martin, Karina Franklin, Veronica Taylor, Trinidad Vazquez, Desiree Cisneros, Heidi Hall, Jackie Lee, John Van Hoven.
- School and IEM representation in attendance: Argi Sayari, Cynthia Rachel, Burke Wallace, Sarah Coyan, Robin Cheves.

4. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public may be heard on any item. A person addressing the Council will be limited to 3 minutes, unless the Site Administrator grants a longer period of time. Comments by members of the public on an item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Council.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Parent Council and Governing Board; Cynthia Rachel

- There are now two components to the SM Parent Council: one is the Parent Council who serves in an advisory capacity; and the second component is the five member Governing Board who serves a one year term and votes on action item so that we can conduct business in a more timely manner.
- This year we will be moving to a 29 member Parent Council in order to get more feedback from our parents.
- Because the Charter was renewed, the Parent Council bylaws will be updated.

B. Subcommittees; Argi Sayari

- Subcommittees should be revised; Graduation Sub-Committee is a useful one; a Field Trip Sub-Committee is no longer relevant; a Fund Raising Sub-Committee is also useful.

- Lynne Porter asked what is the purpose of the fundraising Parent Account. Argi Sayari explained it is used for items that directly involve students; i.e. graduation refreshments, decorations, and for different park days. There are parameters and boundaries that must be adhered to. Cynthia Rachel explained that the Parent Account was set up as a way to fundraise as a school; the amount is typically minimal and it has been used to supplement graduation costs. If parents in the future decide to actively fundraise for a specific project, this account could be used in that capacity also.
- Tari ONeill asked when graduation is scheduled for. Argi Sayari responded that it is scheduled for May 14th, 2018, in Rancho Cucamonga, at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center. Argi will follow up with emails to see who would be interested in helping with the different committees.

C.Parent Council Meeting Schedule; Argi Sayari

- Parent Council will be taking on more of an advisory role. Last year the council met quarterly but with the new role, it was suggested that bi-annually would be sufficient. Heidi Hall suggested we meet more often and Lynne Porter agreed. Quarterly had the consensus based on Parent Council responses. Argi Sayari proposed meeting November 15th, March 14th and May 16th at 1:30pm.

D.Instructional Funds; Burke Wallace

- Parents would like to know where Instructional Funds come from and how amounts are determined. Burke shared that it is a complex formula . The State pays part of our revenue in arrears based on student enrollment, student attendance, and other factors. The primary way of funding in the State of California is LCFF - Local Control Funding Formula, which is the majority of where school funds come from. We do not set our instructional funding based on what other schools are doing or on what other people think. We want to give parents choice in what they want to spend instructional funding on.
- Over the last 10 years instructional funding amounts have increased by about \$800 yearly - a 57% increase over the last decade. Sky Mountain has approximately 2,000 students, which equates to an additional \$1.6 million yearly in instructional funding devoted to our families. Each independent study school must go through a funding determination every few years. One of the things that is looked at is if the school is spending at least 80% of their revenue on instruction for students. The last time Sky Mountain had their funding determination, our rate was above the 80% threshold. Over 80% of the money is devoted back to instructing our students through programs like the mobile science lab, field trips, instructional funds, through LCAP for tutoring, etc.
- A majority of our families do not use all their instructional funds. One thing we do with the extra funds is we use those to support our school wide site licenses. Each year we

meet with the Curriculum Department and the Vendor Department to determine what were the most popular vendors for the past year, what has gotten the best feedback, what has resulted in the greatest gains in student learning. This year those resulted BrainPop, Enchanted Learning, Lynda.com, and iReady. We use these funds to bolster all students on top of the instructional fund amounts.

- Lynne Porter asked how much goes to a high school student versus a grade school student and how is money allocated for high school versus grade school funds. Burke responded that instructional funds for high school is higher because high school tends to be more expensive for the books, for wet labs, and a-g is certainly more so. Sky Mountain used one-time funding a few years ago to purchase a-g textbooks. Last week at the Teacher Training we had the mobile science lab full with a-g text books and our ESs were asked to take those for their students who are a-g to help offset that cost. Additionally, a lot of the LCAP money that we have goes to supporting a-g students.

E.Sky Mountain Park Days; Argi Sayari

- Park Days are a new initiative beginning this year. The idea is to provide socialization opportunities for active families, to share information with new families and bring public awareness. Argi is working with ESs to start the program. Argi is also asking for volunteers to sign up for the committee and to help by coming to the events, sharing experiences, etc.
- Jackie Lee asked about adding locations in the Burbank area. Argi is looking at Santa Clarita to set a special event where the mobile science lab, art in the park will be located on a Thursday.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion to approve appointed 2017/18 Governing Board Members

Our 2017/18 appointed Governing Board members are: Shiching Wagner, Tari ONeill, Miriam Dayan, Desiree Cisneros and Heidi Hall. Lynne Porter motioned to approve the 2017/18 appointed Governing Board members. Micaela Darr seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

B. Parent Council Officer Elections

Elections postponed until we have updated Bylaws.

C. Motion to approve May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Heidi Hall moved to approve the May 22, 2017 minutes. Nina Miller seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

7. ADJOURN

Argi adjourned the meeting at 2:08 pm.