

Sky Mountain Charter School Meeting Minutes

SMCS Parent Council Meeting

Teleconference meeting March 26, 2009

1. Call to order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Welcome/Roll Call

Attendees: Shana Fisk (Director), Patti Larriva (High School Guidance), Maria Kirkbride (WASC Coordinator), Sarah Coyan (Parent Support), Candice Blanco, Elizabeth Gath, Cherry Borm, Tammy Williamson, Kim Lovold, Shannon Towler, Jillian Foote, Dawn Blair, Katherine MacNeish, Melissa Hoyal, Kirstin Leidig

4. Hearing of the Public

*Jillian Foote: When there is an emergency that causes a parent to miss a Learning Record meeting, could there be a backup plan rather than having the child marked truant?

Response: Being marked truant if the mandatory 20th day parent/student/ES meeting of each Learning Record period is not met is a California Department of Education requirement. When scheduling meetings some ES's try to schedule on the 17th or 18th day in order to give some leeway in case of emergencies. Also there is a State Allowance form for national disasters. If concerns come up please contact your ES or your ES's advisor for assistance.

*It was brought to our attention that there was confusion with the call in phone number. The original email that went out on 3/24/09 had the correct call in number to the teleconference, however, the reminder email that went out on 3/26/09 had an (888) prefix and it was actually (866). We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused and deepest apologies from Sarah Coyan (Parent Council Secretary).

5. Discussion Items

A. WASC report (Maria Kirkbride) This has been a really great and exciting process, we had our first WASC visit on February 23, 2009 from Dr. Brown and our initial documentation has been completed. Representatives from IEM and from Sky Mountain as well as parents and students attended the WASC meeting and spoke with the WASC chairperson which was great. The first week in May is when we will be notified of our WASC accreditation status which could be WASC candidacy, or a 1yr, 3yr, or 6yr accreditation, we are hoping of course for a 6 year accreditation. Being WASC accredited will begin a 3 year extensive self study with a continual process of improvement. There is more about the WASC accreditation process in the Spring 2009 newsletter at <http://skymountaincs.org/newsletter.html>

(Shana Fisk spoke on the candidacy aspect of WASC) The WASC candidacy shows that a school

is in the process of being WASC accredited. This would be a possibility because SMCS is new and has not started the third year yet. Dr. Brown was reminded that though Sky Mountain is new, IEM and the other three schools managed under IEM are not new and they hold WASC accreditation. If Sky Mountain receives candidacy this year then next year it will change to WASC accreditation. We will keep Sky Mountain families posted on the WASC process and a listserv announcement will go out in May.

B. GEA subcommittee report (Beth Gath) We had one GEA per month this year and got a lot of positive feedback from families who attended. The parents and students have enjoyed the opportunity to meet other families with Sky Mountain. We are looking for suggestions for next year. There is a survey from Krista Woodgrift regarding the GEA's for next year, the responses to these surveys will help in determining next year's GEA's the link to the survey (also in the spring 2009 newsletter) http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=csYXyF87hxi7mIY8b4dV7A_3d_3d

C. Graduation update (Patti Larriva) The graduation will be Saturday May 30th at Central Park in Rancho Cucamonga (details in spring 2009 newsletter). This is a central location for the graduates so that none of them have to travel too terribly far. There will be a guest speaker, Randy Gaschler, which is very exciting. We would like to extend the invite to all of Sky Mountain to hear Randy Gaschler speak with the graduates. All 2009 graduates received a letter from Jean and Dawn (parent council graduation subcommittee) regarding information on the graduation and information about the cap and gown went out to the graduates as well. Thank you Jean and Dawn.

D. Upcoming Parent Council Elections in May (Shana Fisk) For those of you who have served on the Parent Council since the 2007-2008 school year thank you so much and your term will end this year. For those of you who joined the Parent Council this year (2008-2009 school year) thank you and you will have one more term. Names will be sent out in April for the Parent Council May elections.

6. Action Items

A. Fundraising Monies Box tops for education brought in \$75.00 this year and will be put in the fundraising account for SMCS. The account is currently at approximately \$200.00. There is a possible \$300.00 coming from the GEA parking vouchers. This gives approx \$575.00 fundraiser monies to be spent which will be agreed on by the Parent Council.

Suggestions...

1)STAR testing site snacks, 2)Scholarship money for GEA's, 3)Graduation ceremony decorations

Notes on discussions of the suggestions

STAR testing site snacks- it would cost about \$100.00 (minimum) to purchase snacks for each

site and there are 10 sites so this would be an option for next year because there is not enough money this year to buy snacks and waters for each testing site.

Scholarship money for GEA's-Sometimes families have no IF's left that have not had a chance to go on a GEA so maybe there could be some money allotted to do a scholarship for a family with no IF's left who would like to attend a GEA. The GEA's will be planned early enough for families to plan for them and allot money from their IF to attend. It is important for families to plan wisely when spending their IF's.

Graduation ceremony expenses/decorations-Last year Jean Jamieson donated the graduation decorations and she will be donating the same ones for this year; there are not many decorations though. The cake last year came out of school funds. It was suggested to allot \$200.00 of the fundraising monies to go towards the graduation ceremony expenses.

Additional comment/question-could a family donate leftover IF's toward the STAR testing site snacks? **Answer**- Thank you for the thought, however, it is not legal for IF's to be used toward food. A very specific criterion is in place for what the IF's can be spent on.

Jillian Foote (Parent Council President/fundraising subcommittee) made a suggestion before starting the vote... allot \$200.00 of the fundraising monies to be spent on the graduation expenses/decorations and leave the rest in the fundraising bank account for next year's STAR testing sites snacks and water, or have it in the bank for if a new suggestion arises that could be added to the suggestions for voting at a later time.

After discussing and reviewing each suggestion for the fundraising monies a roll call vote was taken in which a unanimous decision was made in agreement to Jillian's suggestion.

7.Meeting Adjourned