

Sky Mountain Charter School Meeting Minutes  
SMCS Parent Council Meeting  
Teleconference meeting March 29, 2011

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Introductions/Welcome/Role Call**

Shana Fisk, Sky Mountain Charter School Director: Welcome and thank you to Parent Council members.

**Attendees: Shana Fisk, Susan Clark, Eric Schoffstall, Katie Ringhofer, Sandra Barela, Erin Havrilesky, Sarah Cohan, Jackie Mears, Renee Cowan, Kitty Handberry, Nicole Hebbard, Karen Christopher, Trish Welham, Josephine Holbach, Judith Claudi-Magnussen, Melissa Licudine, Margaret Kurtz, Abigail Hanson, Steve Askin**

4. **Hearing of the Public**

No comments

5. **Presentation Items**

**A. Katie Ringhofer, WASC Report**

SMCS is currently WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Accredited; WASC will be re-visiting our school in the fall 2012 school year. The WASC process requires a great deal of group effort including parents, teachers, students, community members, and staff involvement. This year we will be working on having focus groups to look at different aspects of the WASC process. The following is what WASC will be looking for when they visit us next year:

- How we are meeting the expected student learning results (ESLR's)
- How we addressed our initial plan of action
- How we are meeting our goals
- Student performance including strengths/weaknesses
- If we have addressed issues/concerns from the past

We will need parent involvement during and prior to the WASC visit, and would like for Parent Council members to spread the word. There will be more information to come on the WASC visit; information will be posted via listserv notices.

**B. Sandra Barela, GEA Report**

We are excited to share some fun details about this year's GEAs:

- September GEA: Los Angeles Arboretum**; this included an opportunity for students to experience wild life, flora, and fauna through self guided tours.
- October GEA: Universal Studios**; students chose an area of learning to complete, and had an opportunity to learn about dinosaurs and career opportunities in the entertainment industry.
- **November GEA: Peter Pan Play**; this was an unusual and unique experience brought over

from England that provided students with an opportunity to learn about how projection is used in coordination with acting so that a smaller stage can be used.

**-December GEA: Aquarium of the Pacific;** this was a really amazing opportunity for students to receive one-on-one time with the employees of the aquarium and ask questions. An interesting fact learned by students that day is that sharks lay eggs everyday just like chickens do.

**-January GEA: Idyllwild Nature Center;** the students rotated through activity stations including a scavenger hunt, nature hike, and games that provided educational information about Native American Indians.

**-February GEA: Pirate Adventure;** The students learned about different explorers and their contributions to society.

**-March GEA: Safari Park;** students enjoyed the experience of seeing baby animals in their natural environment, including a 3 day old zebra.

We have received wonderful feedback from the GEAs and we are excited about next year's GEAs.

### **C. Susan Clark, IEM Report**

IEM is currently working on a number of projects including planning a conference to promote our vision, and gearing up for the end of this fiscal year. Following are details of current IEM projects:

-Planning a conference in October for all staff of IEM and all four IEM Charter Schools. The purpose of the conference is to promote the vision of IEM and make sure that everybody understands the importance of parent choice and individualized learning plans. IEM is continuously improving the delivery of services to our students.

-Developing individualized learning plans to help assist teachers and parents choose curriculum that best meets the needs of the students. This is a large project and will be going on through next year; we will be excited to implement this once the research and project is completed.

-The longitudinal study of graduates is a project that involves inquiring with SMCS graduates to find out from them how they were encouraged toward success; this will also involve gathering statistics to support the success of IEM Schools.

-As the 2010/2011 school fiscal year wraps up, IEM is in the process of closing up documents, accounting, and database information for one year and prepare to begin the next fiscal year; this also involves projecting the budget for next fiscal year 2011/2012.

Susan Clark is happy to be a part of Sky Mountain Charter School and appreciates the service of the parent council members.

### **D. Sarah Coyan, Subcommittee & May Parent Council Election Report**

*Subcommittee Report-(Note: only 1 subcommittee had information to report)*

#### **Fundraising Report:**

Debbie Morehead provided a report on the Target Red Card- 7 people signed up for a Target Red Card designating SMCS as the beneficiary. This fundraising opportunity provides SM with 5% of the purchase when a person uses his or her card. \$80.00 was earned for the school by

having 7 people participate. We need to encourage and remind people to participate in this fundraising program because it's a very easy way to earn money for the school. For more information on how to sign up for a Target Red Card you can visit [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click on "Take Charge of Education." You can request a card online or in the store. You can also verify that your current card is registered with Sky Mountain as the beneficiary by going to the take charge of education link, entering your card number, and following the prompts. Please note: when it asks you to enter your school name/city, zip code/state it is listed under [Sky Mountain Charter School/Placerville, 95667/California](#). Please encourage families to participate in this program and please feel free to contact Sarah Coyan [scoyan@ieminc.org](mailto:scoyan@ieminc.org) if you have any questions.

Box Tops- Karen Christopher leads the Box Tops for Education project; she has volunteered to continue this next year (Thank You Karen!). This year the school earned \$557.20 from the Box Tops fundraiser; this is a big improvement from last year when the school earned about \$100.00 from Box Tops. We want to encourage families to participate and continuing to participate in the Box Tops for Education Programs.

-Questions/Comments about subcommittees and fundraising:

\*Shana Fisk encouraged parent participation and involvement from parents both on the council and not on the council; the more parent involvement we have, the healthier the school will be.

\*Renee Cowan suggested providing a booth with fundraising information at the STAR testing sites about the Target Red Card, and other school fundraisers; this is a fabulous idea that we will look into implementing as soon as possible.

\*Leadership's goal is to earn enough funds in the Sky Mountain petty cash account to present the council with an action plan vote to open a site license for all Sky Mountain students to participate in; this would cost approximately \$10,000-12,000.

*May Election Report:*

- Thank you to all of the Parent Council members for your involvement with the school and your service on the council this year.

-Thank you and goodbye to the following members who are finishing their second term on the Sky Mountain parent council: Tari O'Neil, Jackie Mears, Deborah Morehead, Renee Cowan, Kitty Handberry, Renee Canham, Josi Robles, Nicole Hebbard, and Maricel O'Sullivan.

The following members will continue serving on the council in the 2011/2012 school year for their 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Theresa Marji, Sandy Kochan, Karen Christopher, Trish Welham, Josephine Holbach, Judith Claudi-Magnussen, Melissa Licudine, Margaret Kurtz, and Abigail Hanson.

- We will be posting an announcement on the parent listserv group, and asking ESs to notify families that there are openings on the Parent Council for next year. Once I have a list of parents interested in serving on the council I will send out a school-wide ballot for a vote to fill the 9 vacant spots. Any parents interested in serving on the council who are not voted in will be placed on the alternate list. The families currently on the alternate list will be contacted to see if they would like to be placed on the voting ballot and will need to be voted in to be placed on the official Parent Council contact roster.

**\*\*Elections will be held in May\*\***

## **E. Erin Havrilesky, Graduation Report**

Sky Mountain Charter School's graduation ceremony for this year (2010/2011) will be held at Goldy S. Lewis Community Center on May 21, 2011 at 10:00 am; for more details on the location of the ceremony please visit the guidance link of the website <http://skymountaincs.org/guidance.html>. Sky Mountain Charter School has 26 graduating seniors this year. Graduation is an important and special time in a young person's life and we would like to help make this day wonderful for them. This year at graduation there will be two extra special and exciting things happening; a graduating senior will be singing, and a Sky Mountain student will be opening the ceremony with the national anthem. We are currently encouraging graduates to submit essays, which are due by April 5, 2011. Each graduate at the ceremony will be introduced and presented with a speech by his or her ES; this is a special tradition that we are still small enough as a school to maintain as this school year. The ES speeches provide a special and personal touch to the ceremony. We are expecting approximately 234 guests at the graduation ceremony, and are currently working on preparing the entry tickets for graduates to give their guests. A Sky Mountain parent has volunteered to present a slide show this year; this will be another unique and special experience for the 2010/2011 graduates. We are in need of pictures of graduating seniors for this slide show. Graduation costs are expected to be a maximum of \$500.00 for decorations, flowers, cake, and refreshments. The graduation room rental cost is covered by the school. Historically parent council has voted in allotting some of the petty cash funds for the graduation ceremony. Erin asked the council to consider approving a maximum of \$500.00 of Sky Mountain petty cash funds to be allotted toward graduation.

## **6. Action Items**

**Petty Cash-** Current petty cash dollar amount is \$2209.94 not including the \$80.00 from the Target Red Card fundraiser.

**A. Petty Cash Account- graduation needs:** Parent council voted; all 11 member present at the meeting voted approval of \$500.00 for graduation needs.

**B. Petty Cash Account- other needs:** No suggestions at this time; the funds will carry over for next year.

## **7. Adjourn**

Shana Fisk thanked the parent council for their involvement with the school, and adjourned the meeting at 2:04 pm.