

Sky Mountain Charter School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

By Zoom Teleconference

1423 W. State Street Suite A, Redlands, CA 92373

Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 1:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Argi Sayari, Sky Mountain Education Liaison, called meeting to order at 1:31pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME/ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chirsty Harker, Na'Comi Berman, Kimberly Ireland, Christina Thompson, Karen Cobb, Shihching Wagner, Trinidad Vazquez, Miriam Dayan, Tzippy Rav-Noy, Heidi Hall, Sarah Moore, Desiree Cisneros

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. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion to approve intent to apply for 2017/18 Part I of the Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs

Karen Cobb moved to approve the intent to apply for 2017/18 Part I of the Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs, Kimberly Ireland seconded the motion

****Motion approved by unanimous vote****

- B. Motion to approve \$750.00 from SMCS fundraiser account for graduation needs

Kimberly Ireland moved to approve \$750.00 from SMCS fundraiser account for graduation needs, Christy Harker seconded the motion

****Motion approved by unanimous vote****

- C. Motion to approve March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Kimberly Ireland moved to approve the March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes, Na'Comi Berman seconded the motion

****Motion approved by unanimous vote****

6. REPORTS

A. IEM Report; Susan Clark

Susan Clark, Director of Enrollment, thanked parent council members for their time, participation, and input. We wish well to those members whose term is finishing up and we look forward to working with members whose terms continue into next year.

Susan gave an update on the Redlands Resource Center. At one time it was compliant to have this resource center. Some core cases have changed this landscape. We will be working on plans over the summer. In the meantime, we will file for a waiver that will buy us one year to figure out how to be in compliance with the changes of interpretation in the law in regard to charter school resource centers. We will present a transition plan in the fall that will require a board vote. For more information about the politics surrounding this issue you can research the Anderson Union School District v. Shasta Secondary Charter Academy.

B. Teacher Services Report; Burke Wallace

Burke Wallace, Director of Teacher Support Services, thanked the parent council for their time and addressed questions that came in from parent council prior to the meeting including an update on funding for the 2017/18 school year and GEAs.

a. Update on funding for the 2017/18 school year

Burke reference Governor Jerry Brown's budget plan which is currently in the revise phase; a final budget should be approved by June/July. Although it looks as though Governor Brown is expecting funding to fall, our plan is to for our instructional funding rate for the 2017/18 school year to remain the same as this year which is \$2,200.00 for TK-8 and \$2,700.00 for high school. Instructional funding is one of our top priorities, we hope to be able to move forward with our plan to keep instructional funding at the current rate, we will know for sure after the final budget is released.

b. GEAs

Burke discussed how GEAs have grown over the years. Argi is a full time Sky Mountain employee responsible for setting up GEAs for SMCS. We offered 22 GEAs this year which is a great increase from the 5 that were offered a few years ago. Argi is always open to suggestions, please feel free to email him if you have GEA opportunity ideas (asayari@ieminc.org). There is criteria to consider when Argi is setting up GEAS along consideration of geographic areas and appropriateness for different age spans. A survey has gone out to the Parent Listserv for GEA suggestions, feedback from that survey is important and valued. Argi is currently working on setting up GEAs for the 2017/18 school year.

c. Hiring update

Burke gave a hiring update. Our prospective student list is currently over 150 students. This shows that we will continue to grow at a slow but reasonable pace. We have no plans at this time to hire additional ESs. Three years ago we had a large number of staff leave; however, in the past two years since then we have not had a single ES leave Sky Mountain, which we feel is a testament to some of the behind the scenes changes in terms of how pleased our ESs are with their employment. Burke acknowledged that as director of the Teacher Services department, he believes that happy and content ESs who feel positive about their workplace do a better job at serving their families and he makes this a priority. As a school we are working on hiring more special education staff, we feel it is in the best interest for our special education students to have internal staff as well as vendors.

d. Educator Effectiveness Funding Update

Burke gave an update on the Educator Effectiveness Funding, a one time state grant good for three years that was previously approved by parent council. This funding has been used to send staff to conferences and professional development opportunities to help them work toward growth based on goals they have set. Some trainings have included technical, math, and science training. Some of the money has been set aside to help ESs become single subject content area credentialed which is great for supporting high school students. We will be hosting our very own Google training in the fall, we

anticipate many of our ESs participating in this training to become Google certified educators which will help them to better communicate with families and facilitate support with online programs for our students.

C. Assessment Report; Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa Gonzalez, Assessment Director, shared a powerpoint presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oG_9Q1bR3VNWoeGA2i97AQOMSbQScG8js6H-ftBSK_c/edit#slide=id.g15e32ba958_0_0 displaying iReady features, reports, performance, and diagnostics. The presentation also reviewed the California Dashboard which is the new California Accountability System being rolled out. Melissa answered a question about waiving or opting out of state testing. According to ed code parents do have the right to opt out of CAASPP testing. It gets tricky because we as a school are required to SBAC test our students; however, parents are allowed to opt out. When we have too many students opt out it affects us as a school by lowering evaluative criteria and can jeopardize our accountability and our charter school. When students opt out of CAASPP testing they are still required to take an alternative test. The target is for 95% of our student body to test, there is a 5% buffer for emergencies.

D. Curriculum and Guidance Report; Brandy Anderson

Brandy Anderson, Director of Curriculum and Guidance, discussed Science/Art in the Park. We will be sending out a parent survey that will help us gather necessary data for setting up mobile science classes for the 2017/8 school year. Next year we will allow for parents to drop their students off at the mobile science lab, we will have assistance at the sites to support this option. Curriculum and lessons will be different from year to year. Next year we are planning the schedule around likely weather issues that we ran across this year.

Brandy discussed the writing initiative; our school recognizes there is a need for parents to learn more about writing curriculum and options. This year we offered parent webinars for IEW, BraveWriter, and other resources for writing; we will continue to offer parent webinars for writing support next year as well.

Brandy discussed high school guidance; Jami Riley has been busy talking with parents of families with 8th grade and high school students. Please reach out to her if you have an 8th grade or high school student, she offers amazing support. We have filled a new high school

support teacher role for next year, a parent webinar will be presented to further discuss this. We will not have the SME program/oversight next year due to a change in the state requirement; instead our high school support teacher will satisfy a requirement through the UC system for our a-g courses.

E. LCAP Report; Laurie Goltara

Laurie Goltara, LCAP Coordinator, reviewed the 2017/18 LCAP draft, which can be viewed on our school website on the LCAP page under documents and resources > [LCAP advisory meeting](#). Laurie shared a presentation which reviewed what LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) is, the purpose of LCAP funding, and the goals for these funds. We had stakeholders, including parents and students, complete an LCAP survey; we gathered and evaluated feedback to develop our 17/18 LCAP draft. LCAP goals must align with the eight state priorities. Each year we must document how our goals and actions affected student achievement. We keep our three LCAP goals broad and simple to encompass as many students as possible. Laurie reviewed the three goals and action items. We have not finalized the final budget but we are looking at the most highly rated action items based on feedback from stakeholders. For more information on LCAP you can visit the [LCAP page](#) of our website.

F. Charter Renewal Report; Cynthia Rachel

Cynthia Rachel, Director of Education Support Services, gave an update on charter renewal. The Sky Mountain Charter renewal was approved, it takes effect on July 1, 2017 and is approved for 5 years. Every five years charter schools go through a renewal process with their authorizing district. The renewal process involves ensuring the school is fiscally solvent, ensuring students are provided a sound educational program, etc. One part of the charter document refers to the parent council and governance structure of the school as a whole. We looked at how to make the governance structure of the school to run as smooth as possible. As of now the SMCS parent council serves in the role of an advisory council with some governance structure responsibilities; with 19 members it can be very challenging to reach a quorum to be able to conduct business. When we need things in a timely manner it can be tricky to support 19 schedules. Next year we will have two separate bodies; one will be the parent council to act as our advisory counsel and this group will grow from 19 to 29 with a goal to hear from as many

parents as possible. The second body will be a separate governing board; this board will consist of 5 members who will serve a 1 year term. The board members will be parents from the parent council, if you serve on parent council you will be eligible to serve on the governing board. Parent council members serve a 2 year term, if you serve on the board for 1 year that will count as one of your two years. The board members will be appointed by IEM and approved by the parent council advisory members. This has been rolled out at our other two schools (Ocean Grove and South Sutter), we will send out an email to parent council members in the fall to gather names for parents who would be interested in serving on the governing board. Parent Council has a minimum of two meetings per year, the governing board members will meet as needed. A quorum for parent council meetings will be 15 members, a quorum for governing board meetings will be 3 members. The primary responsibility for parent council beyond being an advisory committee will be to elect the governing board members. Parent council meetings will still consist of reports and discussions, we are also looking forward to a lot of two way communication and input from members. Business action items will take place during the governing board meetings. The governing board responsibility will be to review and vote on any actions that require a governing body approval. Both parent council meetings and governing board meetings will follow the Brown Act. Cynthia answered a question in regard to whether or not action items will first go to the parent council, action items will not be presented to the parent council advisory committee, they will only go to the governing board; the parent council and governing board will be two separate entities. We are excited about this because we are hoping to be able to receive more feedback from parent council as an advisory committee and act quickly with time sensitive business with the governing board by having the flexibility to work with five schedules to ensure a quorum.

G. Vendor Relations Report; John Wilberger

John Wilberger, Director of Vendor and Purchasing Services, gave a report on new vendors and PO processing. Approximately 22,000 POs were processed this year for SMCS, we approved 216 new vendors this year (these new vendors can be viewed in the excel spreadsheet that was sent to all parent council members prior to the meeting), and SMCS currently has about 3,000 OML licenses.

John addressed questions that were presented by parent council prior to the meeting. In regard to implementing a system that will allow parents to track the process of POs; this is a request we have heard before, it would take IT programming, John will check with our IT department on the logistics of having a secure parent portal to check on the status of PO requests. In regard to why there is a line limit on POs; this is a system limitation, we are looking into expanding that by an additional 10 lines, an IT request is in the works for this. This would make a total of 30 lines, if we go above that the POs would not be legible enough for our vendors to view. In regard to the question about why we only allow one item per student per PO; that is not necessarily the case, the ES must use their professional judgement when distributing materials for each learning period. ESs are advised to distribute as needed rather than distribute all at once. Years ago before we had these types of ordering restrictions there was some misuse of instructional materials. We need to be good stewards of public dollars which is why we have ordering policies. In regard to the last question about the vendor approval process and delays in that process; there have been several improvements made including the online vendor application and the sole proprietor live scans that we run through the school. The most significant delays we see in the process is prospective vendors not returning paperwork; we now send an email reminder to prospective vendors every 30 days, this has proved to be helpful.

7. ADJOURN

- Cynthia adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.