

Riverside Drive Charter School Governance Council Meeting

October 14, 2015

Welcome

Governance Council

Kesia Doucette, Principal; Sybil Goodkin, Chair/Parent; Suzanne Eisenberg, Vice-Chair/Teacher; Catherine Wygal, Secretary/Parent; Ilra Wi, Parliamentarian/Teacher; Hope Cameron, Parent/PFRD Rep; Jenni Gerdes, Teacher/Parent; Sandra Rodriquez, ELAC/Parent; Angie Ware, Classified Staff; Elizabeth Kate Zubkoff/Parent

Attendees and Presenters

Ripsime Arakelian/Administration; Christine Higgins, Charter Renewal Chair/Parent; Kris Nevills/Teacher/Parent; Lori Schlaifer/Parent; Wendy Thompson, Alternate/Parent; Susan M. Baker/Parent; India Gaston/Parent; Jamie Adlof/Parent;

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Sybil Goodkin called the meeting to order at 3:08pm.

The council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and approved.

Budget Update

Ripsime Arakelian

Ripsime updated us on the budget availability for the 2015/2016 school year. *See Budget*

When we earmark monies, we have to put money aside for Brainpop (\$2,200) and IXL and (\$2,700). Counsel needs to vote on Brain Pop and IXL renewals as they both expire in October, with a 30-day grace period. Jenny Gerdes suggests we have an emergency meeting for budget approval, but Ripseme notes we won't have any trouble paying for the renewal in November after our next meeting.

The school must pay for parent requested GATE student testing at a cost of \$200+ per student. Testing is done for all 2nd grade students at no cost to the school.

New Hires Update

Riverside would like to offer campus aid positions to two (2) internal candidates, but LAUSD demands that we pull from an "must be placed list". Riverside is working on coming up with alternative title names for the two positions we'd like to fill internally, but because of the hiring freeze we are unable to move forward with any new hires.

New Business

Mission Statement

Christine Higgins

As part of the Charter Renewal proposal, a new school mission statement must be approved. Christine proposed two mission statements for Council approval: STArt vs. STEAM (*see attached proposed statements*)

Hope Cameron likes the STArt plan – sounds new and different; not the same old STEAM concept so prevalent right now.

Irla Wi did some research and found that not all LAUSD schools were implementing STEAM in the same way. Irla noted that there are many studies on STEAM as well as support networks to help foster the STEAM standards at Riverside. In addition, he feared that STArt would mean having to create our own curriculum instead of using STEAM practices that are already available to us. Irla noted that China has focused on STEM but they are finding that adding arts is critical to the growth and success of their students. Irla wants to have Riverside stand out as a true STEAM school with art as its own important category not necessarily connected to math and science.

Kris Nevills joined the meeting to add clarity around the STArt mission statement. Kris noted that STEAM is already prevalent in schools, but that STArt is something new that will set Riverside apart from the rest. In reference to STEAM, the “E” for Engineering is already in science. The “M” for math is already a standard requirement for elementary school so isn’t essential for our mission statement.

Riverside has already been doing STEAM, but the school is not working together with common goals. The new mission statement for STArt will allow Riverside to focus on science over the next 5 years which she feels will make Riverside stronger.

Irla Wi reiterated that STEAM has years of research behind it with a structured program of support.

Council voted on the Mission Statements. 6 members in favor for STArt; 0 for STEAM; 1 abstention.
Council approved STArt mission statement.

Technology Proposal

Kris Nevills / Technology Committee

5 computers needed in total. IEP / SST needs a new desk-top. Need 4 more temporary computers for computer lab. \$7,500 estimate. Computers are all going to be replaced in the lab next year, so once they are, these computers will then be used in the classrooms. Not all classes have computers right now.

Council approves \$7,500 spending request.

Committee reports

ART

Susan Baker

Fabric mural on kinder fence started

More art projects over the next few months for the campus.

Looking into potential fundraising opportunities.

ATTENDANCE

Lori Schlaifer

Committee is going to come up with a mission statement. Considering incentives for attendance.

Catherine Wygal suggested understanding full breadth of reasons children are missing school (no rides available, sick parents, etc).

BUDGET

Ripsime Arakelian

Reported above

GRANT WRITING

Go to the grant writing committee if your committee to get help writing grants for monies.

SAFETY

Lori Schlaifer

Tuesday October 20th will be the fire drill / school "Great Shakeout" drill.

Red emergency class back-packs need to be updated.

In the Spring there will be a school lock down drill.

CPR Class was held recently.

Suzanne Eisenberg

Safe School Plan: There is a safety team org chart but it needs to be revised.

BEAUTIFICATION

Sybil Goodkin

Campus beautification was very successful. An additional beautification day is planned for November 1st. Muralist will be in attendance at the Fall Fest to paint a mural on one of the handball courts.

BY-LAW

Christine Higgins

See above new business

OUTREACH

Hope Cameron

Meeting on Nov 7th

CURRICULUM

PE standards need to be met.

Need to write grants for PE equipment as well and also need to take inventory of equipment already on campus.

Grant writing:

PE

Added shade for playground

Funding for both sports program and after school sports programs.

PFRD

Hope Cameron

Fall Festival coming up on October 17th.

PFRD meeting the week after that.

SCIENCE

Jamie Adlof

Working on mission statement.

Working on science fair activities; NASA and the LA Zoo will be in attendance. We have "maybes" from LA River, Chumash and Marine Experience.

Science fair may have both school day and after school opportunities.

TECH

Technology plan is complete.

Teachers need to collect AUP agreements.

5th year goal – digital portfolio

Researching 3 reading based programs on line: Lexia, Achieve 3000 and one other.

Representatives from Lexia and Achieve 3000 will be coming to Riverside in November to do presentations.

ELAC

Sandra Rodriguez

A couple of parents added the last ELAC meeting. Committee needs to come up with measurable goals.

Information needs to be gathered on how best we can help teachers teach ESL. ELAC needs more parent involvement and interaction.

Public Comment

India Gaston

First year parent at Riverside noted that there are STEAM schools in Atlanta where STEAM has succeeded.

Adjourned 5:10pm

Action Log Summary

New actions this meeting:

Sybil Goodkin: Get Ripsime info on what funds are being allocated for the \$198,830.44 for each of the committees.

Carryover actions from prior meetings:

- **Kesia** will email charter review self-evaluation to the council
- **Art and Curriculum Committees** need to meet to discuss the larger arts in the classroom options with regard to electives.
- **By Laws Committee** - Change By Laws wording for the hiring committee to upper grade rep or lower grade rep rather than specific grade level reps.
- **Curriculum Committee, Governance Community Involvement Committee, Grant Writing Committee and Awards Committee and Kesia**: need to collaborate on student character building program possibilities.
- **Kesia**: Find out from LAUSD what happens if our school hits capacity in the near future.

Completed since last meeting:

No Report