

Riverside Drive Charter School

Governance Council Meeting

April 13, 2016

Welcome

Governance Council

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

Attendees and Presenters

Kesia Doucette, Principal; Susanne Eisenberg, Chair/Teacher; Hope Cameron, Vice-Chair/Parent/PFRD Rep; Catherine Wygal, Secretary/Parent; Ilra Wi, Parliamentarian/Teacher; Jenni Gerdes, Teacher/Parent; Angie Ware, Classified Staff; Christine Higgins, Charter Renewal Chair; Lori Schlaifer, Parent; Monica Sagaser/parent (attended by did not enter name in log).

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Suzanne Eisenberg called the meeting to order at 3:09pm.

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

Charter Renewal Update

Kesia Doucette

Charter has been approved, but there are benchmarks to be met. Kesia met with the Charter Board, we were number 23 on the list of charter approvals. We were “approved with comment”. The question was posed about our EL classification rate, we have a 4% reclassification rate. We are way below the norm for schools and they want to know why. Ms. Doucette noted that we now have an EL coordinator and they will monitor our reclassification rate over the next 5 years.

Ms. Doucette would like to propose that parents can come and see the new Charter at 5pm at the open house next week.

Budget Update

Kesia Doucette

Only 72 people took the survey. Big question is if we can afford a science teacher; which we can't. Each year, things become more expensive and we have to tighten our grip on spending. We cannot afford to purchase another day of a nursing coverage at the school.

Library Aid, we have to purchase a library aid for an additional 3 hours. Ronnie's position has not yet been confirmed yet. Hoping to use carry over monies to fund his position. PFRD will fund Stephanie's position and field trip opportunities. Kesia will ask PFRD to help pay for Ronnie's position.

New Business

General Discussion: Care for Animals in K – 2 Garden Area

Catherine Wygal brought up the question “who is responsible for the care of the chickens”? Science Committee needs to get involved regarding guiding the care and feeding. As the garden is maintained by the K- 2 classes, perhaps each class should have responsibilities around caring for the animals too, not just the garden. We need to make the care of the animals a priority, or re-home them.

Fifth Grade Fund Request

Lori Schlafter

Doing well on Astrocamp Money. About \$5,400 still due. May still need about \$2,000 to make the trip. No culmination budget (\$250). \$310 per person for camp. Asking for \$300. There are at least 9 (\$2,700 free) scholarships to pay for camp.

Ms. Doucette wants to understand how we can communicate commitment to parents that this is not a free trip.

Lori notes that we need funds for teachers and scholarship students. Lori will do a write up to Kesia and Hope itemizing the final amount of \$ needed for the trip. Not to exceed \$3500. Motion passed.

Governance Elections

Kesia Doucette

The new charter states that we need 6 parent and 6 faculty members on the board. For the election, we need 3 parent council members and 3 new teacher members for the 2016-2017 year. Suzanne Eisenberg will coordinate candidates for teacher positions. Catherine Wygal and Elizabeth Zubkoff will manage the Parent Elections.

We need to have the parent elections by May 6th in order to give the new council members time to attend our next meeting on May 11th. Election Committee will work on a schedule for nominations and election dates.

SAS

Kesia Doucette

Had a meeting the affiliated charters re SAS enrollment. One decision was that we could not enroll students through SAS. New rule is that in order to be accepted through SAS, they first had to get through the lottery. Split from teachers on SAS, not a full commitment from teachers. We are no longer an SAS school. Certain teachers will focus on gifted clusters.

Committee reports

ART

See Above

PRFD

Hope Cameron

New PFRD Board Elections slated for April 19th

BUDGET

See above

SCIENCE

Jamie Adlof

Science Fair is going well. Event is on Friday. Teachers can release students at 1pm to view vendor exhibits. NBC teachers are judging. Trophies being awarded. Winners from each grade level can move on to district science competition.

SAFETY

See above from Kesia Doucette.

BEAUTIFICATION

No update

Community Service (Official Name TBD)

No Update

CURRICULUM

No update

ELAC

Sandra Rodriguez

Not made the goal for reclassification. \$1,600 budget for ELAC next year. Hopefully the next 5 years will increase over following years. Ms. Arnell was able to get answers to many of the questions posed a few meetings ago.

Catch parents with enrollment forms in multiple languages to let them know that ELAC is available.

GRANT WRITING:

Elizabeth – support garden program grand for \$20,000.

Ronya is working on getting re-fillable water stations on campus.

Mr. Wi wants to focus on Science grants to make charter a success.

Public Comment

Monica Sagaser

With “ART” being part of our new StArt program for the charter renewal, Monica believes that currently, arts are not focused on at school. She requests that we take a serious look at incorporating the arts as we move forward with project based learning.

Adjourned 5:00pm

Next meeting May 11, 2016

Action Log Summary

New actions this meeting:

- Look into care and feeding of chickens in K-2 garden area.

Carryover actions from prior meetings:

- **Websites:** Hope Cameron needs to work on separating the PFRD Website from the Riverside website. Sybil Goodkin had already made progress on the website, so Hope will follow up with Sybil to get all current info.
- **Committee Structure:** We need to have greater structure around committees, their accountability, attendance at Governance Council, etc.
- **Art and Curriculum Committees** need to meet to discuss the larger arts in the classroom options with regard to electives.
- **Curriculum Committee, Governance Community Involvement Committee, Grant Writing Committee and Awards Committee and Kesia Doucette:** need to collaborate on student character building program possibilities.
- **Kesia Doucette:** Find out from LAUSD what happens if our school hits capacity in the near future.

Completed since last meeting:

No Report