

BLUE OAK CHARTER SCHOOL
450 W. East Ave., Chico, CA 95926
Charter Council
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 5th, 2013

APPROVED Minutes

OPEN SESSION - 6:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

2. INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

	Present	Absent
Tighe O'Neill	_____	___x___
Heather Altfeld	___x___	_____
Louthea Griffin	___x___	_____
Lyn Herrod	___x___	_____
Claire Hutkens Seda	___x___	_____
Jeff Plotnick	___x___	_____
Eric Berg	___x___	_____

4. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

No modifications

5. AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No audience address

6. REPORTS

6.1 Administrative -

Budget update: discussed CSMC power point presentation, 3.5% COLA for budgeting purposes, possible increase in per student disbursement from state.

Attendance update: very difficult month for attendance. Flu has hit the greater Chico area overall average has dropped from 95% to 93.5%.

2011-2012 School Accountability Report Card (SARC): Reports previous school year information and is posted on website

Laurie discussed teacher in-service day with Greg Peters - teacher training Friday, Feb 1st. He worked with the teachers on issues of delivering Waldorf education to a low-income population.

6.2 Parent Council Report -

Laurie distributed an “upcoming events” list created by Summer to keep the Board informed of what is happening.

6.3 Teacher Report -

Overall feedback from in-service has been positive. As a group, excited about the professional development opportunities of this work. Ally presented ELA & math main lesson books from the 2nd grade.

Teacher feedback about the Alliance Conference - overall positive.

6.4 Committee Reports

- Finance

Nathan discussed Finance Committee issues: Next year’s budget & staffing; teacher training & associated costs. Proposal to provide each teacher with \$5K stipend & require that within 3 years each teacher be Waldorf certified or enrolled in training. The stipend would be a permanent fixture.

- Calendar Committee

A draft is being worked on. Instructional minutes are being calculated. Current draft has start date of 8/27 & end date 6/13-18. Considered cutting instructional days from 180 to 177; Heather recommends keeping grades 1-3 minutes inside the required count.

Eric raised concern about days off of school & 66% of children potentially not getting fed. Heather shared historical practice of “games day” for a small fee when school is not in session... both to support working parents and children of families that may have food scarcity issues. Request to agendize this subject in April.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Approval of January Regular meeting minutes

7.2 Acceptance of Tax return

Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Lyn seconded. Motion passed with roll call vote.

Roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay
Heather Altfeld	<u> x </u>	_____
Louthea Griffin	<u> x </u>	_____
Lyn Herrod	<u> x </u>	_____
Claire Hutkens Seda	<u> x </u>	_____
Jeff Plotnick	<u> x </u>	_____
Eric Berg	<u> x </u>	_____

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Teacher Training solutions- More details Public School Hybrid vs. Community Learning Center

Finance Committee continued discussion of CLC vs. Hybrid model. Some challenges have arisen in getting the details from RSC. Eric commented that Laurie has done a great job pulling together training and it seems to be working. Is concerned that we are now moving a new direction that could interrupt the momentum that is beginning. Heather commented that the depth available in a Steiner-led program, as well as certification, will never be available in a pieced-together program, no matter how good.

J. Glennen stated that the faculty is working to clarify which path is the right path for the teachers - that all teachers have an intention to be Waldorf-certified and they want to continue being trained together.

Discussion followed for clarification of expense; liability; use of public funds; etc.

Request to return in March with more information about Steiner's programs & flexibility - Steiner must be here to present the programs and costs; with back up on fulfilling the promises of the programs.

8.2 Salary Comparisons - CUSD vs. Blue Oak

Nathan presented comparisons. Chico teachers requested more money and agreed to have more students per class. Differentials are very close when class sizes are compared. Also benefits with Chico have cap - many teachers are out of pocket, Blue Oak pays 100%. Teacher training at Chico averages \$1K/year; Blue Oak approved about \$3K per teacher per year. Jeff & Claire discussed working condition improvement as a way of 'compensating' teachers outside of the salary schedule. Consider setting aside 1-year compensation for one teacher per year to support a sabbatical after completing a full teaching cycle.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Independent Study/Homeschool Options

Attorney advises a minimum 1.5 year ramp up. Potential audience would include former families that are interested in Waldorf methods but not in our current structure; they are people who had left because they felt Blue Oak was losing 'purity'; they have been homeschooling through South Sutter and C.O.R.E. or have gone to other schools and are unhappy; they would like to have a way to participate in Waldorf education inside a larger community. Timeline development necessary for a Fall 2014 opening date.

*Item should return to March agenda for further discussion of benefits to the school & students.

9.2 New Bank Account signatory- Add 2 additional signers

Tighe & Heather need to be added to the signature card

Jeff moved to approve item 9.2. Lyn seconded.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 Abstained 0 (Louthea out of room) – *motion carried*

9.3 Admissions Policy

Attorney expressed concerns about current language. Must go back to the drawing board for rewrite. Enrollment cannot wait. 24-hours is standard in public school. Recommend that families be moved through these items but we cannot make it a condition of enrollment.

Laurie addressed the retention issue; describing the need for informed choice by the family - rather than just jumping in to get away from the school they are coming from; they don't get a strong connection to the teacher or the community and leave quickly when they begin to understand what we ask of them. Strategies needed for connecting to the families that drop off at the door & drive away.

*Item to return for March meeting with new draft.

Vice Chair moved Board into closed session at 8:40pm

10. CLOSED SESSION

10.1 CONFERENCE CALL WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to sub-division 3(A) of section 54956.9
(7pm call with attorney)

10.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION title: Principal

10.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION title: Executive Director

Report out from Closed Session-

10.2 completed; Item 10.3 moved to Special Meeting scheduled for Feb 19, 2013.

11. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

11.1 Date of Next Meeting March 5th, 2013, 6:00pm

12. COMMENTS FROM THE CHARTER COUNCIL - Agenda items for next meeting

- Discussion of student meals & services outside school days.

- Rewritten Admission Policy/Procedure

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:15pm