

Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/16/17

Members:

Sarah Fineman
Laura Kanyer
Jess Malone
Meghan Steenburgh
Lynda VanWinkle
Nicole Thibodeau
Mollie Harrings
Carrie Connaker
Robin Reich

Nonvoting Members:

Lucas Saltzman

Visitor:

Monica *Sevenson*
Hans Neidig

Meeting called to order at 5:45 PM.

Mollie moved to approve May meeting minutes. Carrie seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Principal's Report:

Lucas reports very little attrition and many returning families. We are currently enrolled at 384.

MAP testing – Science scores were a bit low. State Testing- The scores were released to students' Zangle/Q login on September 22nd.

Projects/Committee Updates: B&A School Care- The program is planning to open in January 2018. Everything is moving along and we have a great team working on it. We are looking forward to launching a great program. We will be asking PTO for a \$20K start up grant to be paid back within the first year.

A-thon- Our annual PTO fundraiser went off without a hitch. A big thank you to their team for all the support.

Building Forensic- It has been completed. A meeting is scheduled for 10/24/17 at noon.

Staff - We have three new TAs, Paige Chambers (1st grade), Kris Kutscheid (2nd grade), and Jaime Bjork (4th grade) We need to hire another TA for 4th grade – Mr. Roberts. We have a part time Assistant Principal, Anna McGlocklin, this year. She is three days on and three days off.

Budget - Our enrollment is stable and we are currently running a balanced budget.

Budget:

budget
Robin reports that on a whole we are sitting around 25% spent on all the budgets. There are a couple things over – artist in resident and a little bit in the travel. We have 1.2 M in savings. School district is working on our sheets so we can see where money rolls over from the previous year. We will most likely do next year's budget in Nov and Dec.

Teacher Reps:

Monica presented on new 6th grade social studies materials that she and Kacey are interested in. The current curriculum is very dated. The new program would have a digital and textbook aspect. The learning tool allows differential learning and the computer can read it to them. The assessments are on line and if students answer a question correctly the program moves to a more difficult question pattern.

Lynda VanWinkle motioned to approve the recommended 6th grade social studies curriculum and associated funds to purchase. Laura Kanyer seconded the motion and all were in favor. The funds will come out of the teaching supply budget. The cost will be around 5K.

Mollie Harrings motioned for an exemption to the Charter in regards to the defined 6th grade social studies curriculum. Robin Reich seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Professional development group is wanted to support a growth mind-set and looking at possible activities to support and build on this. Teacher curriculum committee is focusing on writing. Sent out a survey to teachers to ask how they could improve their writing instruction. The plan is to submit a beginning of the year writing examples; one below grade level, one at grade level and one above grade level. Then students can have more of a target. SEL Climate committee is working on trying to improve lunchroom atmosphere. The intermediate group does not spend 30 minutes eating; most are finished eating in 20 minutes. Last year we started sending kids outside early, but it impacted the younger outside time. The current solution is for 5th & 6th grades to go to lunch later and 3rd & 4th are going back to their classrooms prior to outside time.

EL education conference – Lynda and Sarah are excited to be going.

3D Printer:

3D printer – Our enrichment program has researched a kid friendly 3D printing scenario. Pat would like to begin doing 3D modeling and have the ability to make model airplanes, boats, ect. 3D modeling can assist with problem solving. Also, moving from 2D to 3D assists younger students with the development process. Maker Bot is desired program. It has a suite that is kid-friendly CAD and comes with lessons and templates already designed. We would use the student activity fee to pay for the printer. The cost

is around \$7,000. We would have to keep buying filament, therefore some continued costs. Lynda VanWinkle mentioned (in light of technology needs) that we need to keep in mind that 10 ipads need to be refreshed.

Nicole Thibodeau motioned to approve funding for a 3D printer out of the student activity fee budget. Laura Kanyer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

members were encouraged to
APC is to branch out and pull in more people for APC. *Committees.*

Committees:

Long-Range Planning: Meeting is set. Forensic is in. Building is in good shape, but the roof is not. This report allows us to make long-term planning decisions.

Curriculum: Teachers went through the Charter and documented inconsistencies. Those will be shared with Nicole Thibodeau.

By-laws and Charter: Last school year we met as a sub-committee and made changes. APC voted to adopt these changes and they have been posted for months. Nicole Thibodeau motioned to adopt the approved changes that we voted on at our May APC meeting. Lynda VanWinkle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Charter will be our next big project. Our goal will be to craft something that defines the desired outcomes. Substantial changes will have to be approved by the school district.

Legislative: Nothing right now.

Community Engagement & Relationships: Lynda VanWinkle is getting a gym key attached to something large so as not to get lost. Kids currently go to the restroom in pairs through the front door. This will continue to be the process, but the key to the gym door can be utilized in case of emergencies.

Instagram for the specialist classes has been implemented.

The plan is to have a school wide toy swap (used toys) the 3 days leading up to the Christmas Bazar which is scheduled for December 2nd. Laura Kanyer will be in charge.

Survey and Evaluations: That time of year is coming along. Robin Reich and Mollie Harrings volunteered to be on the committee this year.

Nov 13th is the next APC meeting.

At 7:02 PM Mollie Harrings motioned to adjourn. Carrie Connaker seconded the motion and all were in agreement.