

Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2015



Members:

Mary Goolie
Simone Sanders
Joey Eski
Linda Julliard
Rich Crosby
Robin Brosius
Melissa Lipinski
Hope McClurg
Nicole Thibodeau
Meghan Steenburgh

Nonvoting Member:

Lucas Saltzman

Visitors:

Baby Wyatt – no comment
Monica Severson
Sarah Ploesser

Call meeting to order: 5:50

Monica/Sarah Curriculum committee update:

- Spelling: wanted a program w/one rule asking for a differentiated list
 - Hard to focus when there are levels, need one rule with different lists, work on in class, incorporate more into work/writing
 - New program books – have what we are looking for: 1 rule/week w/3 lists at (some classes now have 7 lists), below, above grade level and we are requesting those for next year. They will hold kids more accountable than now
- Writing:
 - Hold off on changing, too much to change 2 things in one year. Overall people are happy enough with writing program because there are good websites, plus teachers can work with the writing portion of the program, have more grade level meetings. The plan is to buy more supplemental materials, not revamp the whole program

Board questions/discussion:

- Regarding change in workload, each lesson is a specific topic. It will be different per class, but focusing everyone on the same topic/idea will be more efficient. Classes will have leveled lists, there will be grammar and word sorts. Board was shown an example

- Other schools weren't asked for their opinions. But Cindy Hughes liked it, thought it was expensive at that time, so they didn't go with it. Their endorsement was encouraging.
- New program will cost \$2000 more each year. First year it's more, but we have the funds. Also, There's an online component \$25/class we will try it next year and maybe save money there in the future.

Technology (Robert not present, presented by Monica & Lucas)

- We now have 2 chrome book carts and an ipad cart we use for literacy. Ideally we want to have enough carts for each grade that would have Cloud enabled printers because can't get chrome books to print, there are printers that would rove with the cart.
- Requesting 3 more chrome book carts, share 1/grade and hiring a FT staff for tech/class support, to come into classrooms to work on chrome books and be the tech support.
 - chrome book cart w/printer is 12K, wireless upgrade for the building, triples our bandwidth – hardware is 10K, labor and upgrade wireless (have to hardwire the cart) is 20K , carts are 36K for 3 carts with printers so total cost of 66K in hardware plus staff position of 89-100K annually.
 - (3 carts)36K+(upgrade wireless) 30K+(staff) 89-100K = approx 166,000

Board discussion:

- Right now we use Greg and Linda and helpdesk IT for help, not working. Regarding funding, we applied for a grant and we haven't heard back from it yet.
- Benefits: Chromebooks are cheaper and easier to use than ipads. Also, cheaper than a computer lab. Will prepare kids for jr high and high school, college – it's what they're using there. Chromebooks work, computer labs are rife with tech challenges
- Expecting to do a project per quarter rather than a weekly assignment
- Our tech account has 22K. We can fundraise for the equipment, not for the employee. It's decided that a FT staff is better than half time, will get better recruits b/c more appealing to applicants. New hire could help plan the units
- Here's how we decide to pay for it: Use 5 fund to upgrade computers. 100 in facilities. 100 in curriculum (will get sucked up in book room upgrade). Hardware upgrades. Position? Total is 50500

Action: None needed on spelling. Motion to add one FTE for tech position: All in favors, no nays.

Principal report (see attached):

- Highlights: Busy summer with rentals, will bring in a little bit of revenue, (kiln wiring, wireless upgrade, fan in greenhouse, lunch tables). Friday start interviewing for open teaching position (transfers). Tech position opening will post soon. AMP tests: will lessen the amount of work during testing next year to ease pressure on students/families.

Accounting Report: - Simone:

- No updates

From the President/Mary:

- New APC Meeting Format: (see attached). Committees meet regularly and then report to the APC quarterly. Will need to update bylaws. All APC is still invited to the committee meetings, regardless of new format.
 - Another bylaw update is adding the exec committee and removing the liaison position
- Also, need to change the first fall APC meeting to August 24th
- New Teacher Rep elected – Melissa McDermott
- Principal Evaluation forms due 4/27 for non aquarian employees/board members.

Other Reports

- PTO update
 - Include a lifetime PTO membership
 - No auction needed because the a-thon was a success!
 - TSS will return for pictures next year
- Teacher report
 - 5th grade went to Seward and it was great, students appreciated it
 - Cindy's retiring, on April 30 – chorus show for Cindy, plus gag gifts, nice gifts
 - Robert's moving to fourth grade
 - Amp testing for 1 more week
- TA Report
 - Black top was swept of rocks, less dangerous now.

Committee Updates

- Legislative
 - Waiting to see about budget from Juneau
 - Joey, Lucas, Meg went to Juneau, there's support for charter school from both sides. Worried about verbiage in a bill
- Curriculum
 - New curriculum map in the works. Will have edits by August at APC meeting.
- Long Term planning meeting
 - Phase 2 Bond proposal: we will get a ranking, we are a 500K planning school, so on next bond we might get picked up. Some apc person from this committee needs to show up for capital improvement project planning meetings
- Bylaws Committee
 - Nothing yet, will have an update at next meeting

April meeting minutes approved. Next APC Meeting: Monday May 18, 2015.

Adjourned at 7:52

APC Sign In Sheet

Date: 4/20, 2015

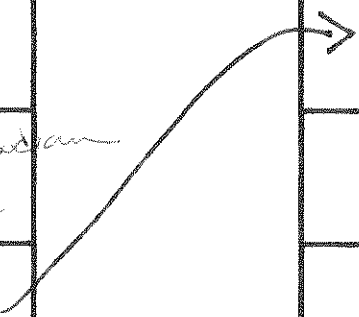
Members

<i>Max & Holly</i>
Simone Sanders
<i>Nicole Thibodeau</i> <i>Nicole</i>
monica feverson Mon
Alex McClurg
Robin Brossius
Linda Julliard
Lucas Altom
RICH CROSBY
Melissa ...
<i>Eda Stebbins</i>

Joey Esau

Guests

Wyatt Hoesser
Sarah Hoesser



Aquarian Charter School
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Agenda

Meeting Information

Date: Monday, April 20, 2015

Time: 5:45 pm

Location: Aquarian School Gym

1. Meeting Call to order
2. Minutes Review and Approval
3. Visitors (each will be given 3 minutes to speak)
4. Curriculum – Language Arts, Writing, and Technology – Robert, Sarah, and Monica
5. Principal Report
6. Accounting Report
7. New APC Meeting Format
8. Principal Evaluation
9. Other reports:
 - PTO Update
 - Teacher Representative- new member
 - TA Representative
10. Committees Up-dates / Old Business/ New business
 - Legislative Committee
 - Curriculum Committee
 - Long Term Planning Committee
 - Bylaws Committee

11. Adjourn Meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2015 5:45PM

Proposed topics: APC bylaws update

Monday, April 6, 2015

Principal's Report

Student Climate/performance

- March Events-
 - Student Council Movie Night 4/10/15, 6-8PM
 - 5th Grade to Seward Sea Life Center- 4/16/15-4/17/15
 - Barnes and Noble Book Fair- 4/25/15
 - Heart Run- 4/25/15
 - Kindergarten Round Up- 4/30/15 4:30-5:30
- State testing- The window for testing opened on the 30th. The week of April 24th is the last week of testing. PTO has offered a pizza party for intermediate students on May 1st as a celebration.

Projects/Committee Updates

- Lunch Tables- Will be installed this summer. The project went to bid with a different company and it has dragged the project out.
- Kiln- The project is going to bid this week. Electrical is being put in by ASD and is wrapping up next month.
- Wireless upgrade- We are working on a hardware purchase and wiring upgrade that will allow us to use more Chrome books next year. The school had a fiber optic line installed two weeks ago. The wireless upgrade puts us on par with other schools and increases bandwidth.

Staff

- Interviews will start this week. We have one opening for next year. It will be a 5/6 classroom.

Facilities

- We met with facilities last week on our Ed Spec project. They are in the process of evaluating our program. In addition we found out we are a phase II school and will receive money for architectural planning next year if the bond passes.

Budget

- I have not received the final numbers for next year's cuts. The budget cuts from the State will impact our budget.