

Prairie Seeds Academy -- District # 4126

Board of Director's Board Meeting
4 PM – 6:00 PM at 6200 W Broadway Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

December 9, 2015

Minutes

Mission

Prairie Seeds Academy, in cooperation with families and community, provides leadership in rigorous education, to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring citizens who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Board of Directors' Purpose

To provide leadership, set policy, and develop accountability practices that will ensure high student achievement.

Call to order 4:12

Role Call

Present: Mindy Hansen, Jeff Culp, Tzianeng Vang, Felicia Perry

Absent: Xee Vue

Ex-Officio: Choua Yang, Ger Yang

Guests: Dan Jett(Audubon), Charlotte Wagner , Chuck Herdegen, Jeanene Miller, Mai Thao

I. Reports:

- Financial Report and Motion: (5 min) *
Fund balance should maintain through the school year.
Management and Financial Reports for November were brought to motion by Tzianeng. Jeff second. All members voted in favor.
- Minutes of previous meeting and Motion: (5 min) *
Adjust the spelling of Tzianeng's name. Motion to approve by Jeff. Mindy second. All voted in favor.
- CEO/ Principal's Report: (10 min each)
Desegregation court case for charter schools on Dec. 16 meeting at MN Transitions School. They are looking for support from parents and staff. There is concern that the charter schools could be negatively affected by this case. Press box is almost done. The cost is coming in under what was projected thus far.
The work of Kristin Scherman, consultant and the Leadership Team has led to almost all elementary teachers are proficient in the Gradual Release model. Thus the instructional coaches are working as a team to shift to work with the secondary more. We are working to improve Tier I in the school. Routines and expectations need to be consistent in order to support Tier II. All support staff will be walking the halls every period of the day to keep the hallways conducive to learning. All of this work will help to increase instructional time. This work is focused on the secondary. New textbooks have been chosen for K-12 English/ Reading/ Writing.
Hmong New Year is Friday. Elementary program is in the morning and secondary is in the afternoon.
Audubon came Tuesday for a site visit for renewal. Dan, consultant, is here and was a part of the team that visited. The team had a good day talking to students, parents, staff, etc. "You have a robust coaching team." Other feedback is that the school is organized. There was a short report from the team. Dan said, "We are your partner...and cheerleader." PSA appreciates that.

II. Old and/or Unfinished Business:

➤ By laws *

Reference made to the documents that were sent out previously. They have been edited by the lawyer team working with PSA. Ask for questions.

1. Clarification of proxy: by video call. (reference only to the Board of Directors)
2. Amendment needs to be added: include the families and staff as the members of the corporation. Article III membership
3. Seek advice 8.9 on page 4. The founder language and if all Board of Directors resign.
4. Question of page 3 for #3.
5. Appoint for the remainder of the term as opposed until election (generally in May). p. 5 Verbage should be replacement for remainder of the term being replaced.

Felicia made a motion to table the approval of the by-laws until the next board meeting. Jeff second. All members voted in favor.
Bring the document back with corrections in Jan.

III. New Business:

➤ Data –Elementary:

Literacy-Mindy Hansen

“Data is useless unless you do something with it”.-Andrew Miller

Support focus is moved to 2nd grade for Literacy. FAST data gives a class grid and individual information on for specific skills. Adjustments have been made to share resources with the lower grades. The need appears to be high. Study Island data provides another data point. Topics can be designated on high priority and low priority to narrow down the instructional plan. Weekly Benchmark Assessment Tracker are used to support classroom instruction. “The goal is to turn data into information, and information into insight.”—Carly Fiorina

Math –Mai Thao

Math uses similar assessments. Co-teaching happens and the math Coach compiles a growth tab report that focuses on per/post benchmark assessments growth made in each unit of study. Implications for what teachers might need to think about or add to instructional practices. If sufficient growth has not been made in areas, teachers continue to support beyond the actual unit. Class comparisons are created by the math coach. 4th graders are strong with the state comparisons, exceed in some areas as reported by the Study Island data. OLPA data shows a lot of Gr. 3, 4, and 5 students are not meeting the standards. The Math Coach will continue to maintain data and give feedback to teachers to move students to more favorable results of tested benchmarks.

➤ Approval of text purchase for Secondary *

The purchase of the English texts for 6-12th grade came to \$ 25,137.92. Collections is the name of the curriculum.

A motion was made by Mindy to approve the purchase of the texts for grades 6-12 English for \$26,000. Second by Felicia. All voted in favor.

➤ Staffing updates*

Resignation: N. Wright HS English, A. Nagengast HS Math

Hiring: Alexandra Brackenwagen, English

Melanie Bradshaw, Art

A motion was made to approve resignation and hires as listed by Mindy. Second by Jeff. All members voted in favor.

➤ Samples of evaluation forms discussion

The forms are based on the leadership role—principal/ director. These forms do not apply to the CEO role.

Committee would consist of 1- 2 Board members, students, etc.

Mindy and Felicia will take on the task as the Board member representatives. Students will be included in the process and chosen with equal representation.

➤ Environmental-update on Staff EE committee

Goals have been set by elementary and secondary. These will be submitted to Audubon for Erin's approval and support. The Hennepin County Watershed Program was recommended to be added by Tzianeng. Others have asked about greenhouse (on the roof).

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Next regular meeting: January 13, 2016

Future agenda items:

By Laws with additions/ corrections

Data

Evaluation process at the Board level

*Items that need motions/ approval