

Ridgeline Montessori Public Charter School

Site Council Meeting Minutes

Mission: We are a governing body serving the Ridgeline community as a forum dedicated to all avenues of school improvement.

The idea that everybody has a stake in the country, that we're all in it together and everybody's got a shot at opportunity. ...we also know that there are some things we can't do on our own. We know that there are some things we do better together.
Barack Obama

Meeting: MONDAY September 21st, 2009; 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Eric Bear, Jen Hornsby, Carrie Culliton, Angela Larsen, Cynthia Friedman, Emily Kintigh, and Adrienne Black

Call to order/Welcome/Kudos

Approve July Minutes - Minutes will be approved after Jen's changes are made.

Items Raised by Guests – Lisa Namyet, a RCO co-convener, came to observe.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda – Cynthia would like to add a snack sign-up sheet for Site Council meetings. Jen would like to discuss ways to improve the current kindergarten classroom setting.

Information Items

- Biographies and picture taking – Jen will organize bios w/ pictures. Staff can have their pictures taken on school picture day, Wednesday, 9/23. Angela took pictures at the meeting just in case.

Friday 9/25 is the deadline for the Reader. Cynthia would like to see a Site Council report once a month in the Reader.

- Email address on website –Site Council emails will be listed on the website under Family info -> Site Council.

- Site council minute taker – Angela is advertising that Site Council needs a new minute taker. One parent has expressed interest but she already volunteers a lot so it would be nice to find someone else. Cynthia will look at her volunteer list.
- Site based decision-making guidelines (4J) – Chrystell provided 4J's guidelines for Site Council. Ridgeline may implement some of their guidelines but it isn't required since Ridgeline is a charter school.
- Snack sign up – Cynthia sent around a sign-up sheet.
- Kinder space – Site Council went to view the kindergarten room. It could use more airflow. The ceilings are very short. Noise is a factor. Is it possible to add more carpet and curtains on the walls to absorb sound?

Discussion Items

Stakeholder Representative Reports

Board – The Board held its retreat and established goals for year. Their goals include:

1. Re-chartering
 2. Re-energize infrastructure
 3. Financial stability; fundraising steering committee, enrollment, state school funding/budget
 4. Facilities – ongoing real estate search
 5. Recruiting Board members – There are only five members right now. The Board would like to have 7-9 members. The Board will announce that they are looking for new members. Interested candidates can come to meetings for six months. Then the Board can invite people to join. They are looking for particular skills.
- Parents and staff are encouraged to come to board meetings. Parents can invite board members to RCO to discuss particular issues.

Teachers – Eric has not been able to communicate with teachers at the Dunn site other than by email. He doesn't know how classes are running at the Dunn site. Teachers have a staff meeting once a month. Teachers are still working on printing and laminating materials. Parents could help by making extra copies. A cold laminator can be sent home with parents. There is a material making volunteer committee. The school needs more money for ready-made materials. The internet in the classrooms is very slow.

Classified Staff – The classrooms at the Dunn site do not feel connected to the Willard site. Upper El shares classroom space. Sound has been an issue with the open classrooms.

Administration – Chrystell not present

Students – Korben not present

Volunteer Coordinator – There are enough volunteers for the vision screening at Dunn. We still need some more volunteers for the Willard vision screening. There will be a “walking train” for students to walk from Willard to Dunn in the morning for bike or walk to school day. Emily Naylor and Lisa Namyet are making a fundraising calendar. Fundraising is a RCO responsibility. It is still in the planning stage. Barnes and Nobles has changed its policy for the book fair. Now all sales have to be made on only one day. Ridgeline will still have a booth at Holiday Market.

Parents – Jen – Parents seem happy that school is surviving but are worried about teachers over extending themselves. There hasn't been an RCO meeting yet this school year.

Carrie – Please put in the enews that parents need to be more aware during afternoon pickup at Dunn. Corners near the school are not safe with kids crossing and waiting at bus stops. Parents are not paying attention at corners. We need a crossing guard at Donald and 35th and at the four-way stop at Donald and 34th. Amy Genz applied for grant for gym equipment and play structures for the Dunn site.

Rechartering

The school charter is still in limbo until Chrystell hears from the district.

Decision Grid

The Board would like to see changes made to the decision grid. The subcommittee will meet to clearly define what certain topics mean with a glossary of terms.

H1N1 Policy

The Board also discussed including Site Council in the policy making process. Would Site Council be able to gather information and write policies? Site Council voted and agreed to write the H1N1 policy in case Ridgeline loses 50% or more of students to the virus. How would we still get education to the students? We could use 4J's policy and/or policies of other small schools. The subcommittee members are Angela, Cynthia, Chrystell, Eric and Adrienne.

Final guest comments/questions

Lisa Namyet asked about the \$40,000 deficit. The deficit is a result of the recession and state budget cuts. The direct donation drive goal is \$22,000. Is

there a way to present fundraising to parents so more families get involved? The direct donation drive is more successful if it is not going into a general fund. Should the school focus on a fundraising campaign for our own building? Are funds being raised for specials like art, PE, and Spanish? The highest priorities now for fundraising are materials and equipment lost in the fire. If each family could contribute \$235, we would raise \$40,000 for the school. Any major donation gifts should go through Chrystell or Trish.

Is the current set up of Upper El and other grades permanent? No, the current classrooms configurations are temporary until we find a permanent building.

Action Items

A. Who will do what by when?

- Jen will organize Site Council bios w/ pictures.
- Cynthia will look at her volunteer list for ideas for a new minute taker.
- The Decision Grid subcommittee will meet to clearly define what certain topics mean with a glossary of terms

B. Who will communicate formally and informally to whom?

Adrienne will tell the Board that Site Council will make the H1N1 policy.

Adjournment 7:32 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19th, 2009, 6:00 p.m.