

CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES
January 11, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Administration Present: Ms. Kerri O'Sullivan, Principal, Mr. Doug Rodriguez, Director of Upper Academy

Teachers Present: Ms. Paula Downey

Parents/Community Present: Sheryl Batchelder,, Ann Bennett, Lynn DeJarnette, Kim Dewey, Jim Duffy, Carolina Fernandez, Dina Hernandez, Melinda King, Kimber Liu, Doraine Melton, Elizabeth Olson, Sharon Priest, Anne Spivey, and Donna Wright. Ms. Leila Brihoum has an excused absence.

Students Present:

STAFF REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Ms. Kerri O'Sullivan announced that commitment forms went out this week. Additionally, this was the first week of accepting new applications and they received over 100 completed applications.

OFFICER'S REPORT

CHAIR'S REPORT: Ms. Ann Bennett passed out the membership roster as she knows it. The current membership roster will be compared to the one that was submitted in November. Any corrections will be made and the revised roster presented at the next meeting. Ms. Bennett urged all of the members to become ambassadors for the school collecting information but always communicating a positive attitude. This council should be the place where all interest groups can feel safe to voice their concerns.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT: Ms. Anne Spivey expressed concern that the council was not in compliance with the Sunshine Laws and wanted to make sure that the meetings and minutes were posted on the Web. She requested that there be an e-mail listed for everyone to be able to contact the council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Ms. Doraine Melton announced that the Minutes of November 9, 2010 are drafted and will be e-mailed to everyone for approval. Once approved, they will be posting on the school website. Attendance is required. There is a minimum of 8 meetings per year some of which may occur when school is adjourned. The council is required to replace any member who has two or more consecutive unexcused absences from school advisory council meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

BYLAWS: A discussion on the membership provision of the bylaws to be drafted concluded that an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents and community citizens would be "no less than three and no more than four" per category for a total membership of 15 to 20. Ms. O'Sullivan expressed concern that our numbers of teachers, education support employees and students might be too high and hard to fill those spots. Officially, balanced is defined as within 20% but the bylaws committee will take all issues under advisement. Donna Wright (Chair), Lynn DeJarnette, Kim Dewey and Jim Duffy were appointed to the bylaw committee.

MEMBERSHIP: It was acknowledged that the membership roster for the initial year may not be in compliance to the way the bylaws once they are written but that recruitment for 2011-2012 will be conducted accordingly. Concern was expressed that there was not a teacher representing the Upper Academy and Ms. Downey recommended Ms. Michelle Casey, Upper Academy Science Teacher. The council approved this recommendation and Ms. Downey was going to follow-up with Ms. Casey. At the last two meetings there was no Upper Academy student representation. Ms. O'Sullivan was going to approach the student council to obtain some student representation. Whether the ethnic, racial and economic representation was present on the current council was discussed. Ms. O'Sullivan will have the school's ethnic, racial and economic statistics available at the next meeting.

UNIFORMS: The contract for next year will be renegotiated and other vendors considered. There was considerable discussion on how to manage the current contract. Ms. O'Sullivan has met with representatives in South Florida and encourages anyone with specific concerns to send them to her so that when she does meet with them she knows where the problems are. Ms. O'Sullivan will speak to them about their lack of sizes available, their slacks are abrasive and their poor customer service.

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF: Ms. Kerri O'Sullivan has timed both lower academy pick-ups and they average 15 minutes or less which she believes to be reasonable. It was noted that many people are parking all around the school and walking to get their students rather than use the designated traffic pattern and that there is still a lot of concern in this area. Ms. O'Sullivan plans on having a traffic engineer look at it before next year.

PROGRESS BOOK: Middle school grades are missing and so are the Elementary specials. Ms. Anne Spivey announced that there was a way to sign-up for e-mails if your student has missing homework. This information is going to be disseminated.

ROTC: Ms. Kim Dewey looked into the teacher sharing program with the ROTC. It takes three years to apply for the program and it is believed that as soon as next year there will be no funding for the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

PIONEER DAYS CONTEST: Ms. Ann Bennett announced that the Pioneer Days Committee wants to invite students to participate in two contests. For the Elementary students there is a poster contest. The winning poster will be printed in the Pioneer Days Magazine, an historical magazine printed exclusively for this year's event. For the Middle/High School there is an Essay Contest. The winning essay will be printed in the Pioneer Days Magazine, an historical magazine printed exclusively for this year's event. Judges for the contest are Sheryl Batchelder, Dina Hernandez, Lynn DeJarnette and Kimber Liu.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: One of the main responsibilities of this council was to evaluate and write the School Improvement Plan. The first step would be to obtain what was submitted in September. Ms. O'Sullivan will make sure Ms. Bennett gets a copy of the plan for the next meeting.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS: The amount for 2009 was \$5.00 per student but it is believed that there are no funds available for 2010. If there are funds available, a portion of the funds provided in the annual General Appropriations Act for use by School Advisory Councils must be used for implementing the School Improvement Plan. The money is sent by DOE to each district, which forwards allocations to each local school SAC.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM: If there are no funds then there is no need for the council to set up a recognition program plan. This issue has been tabled.

ADJOURNED at 8:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,
Doraine Melton
SAC Secretary