

CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

January 10, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Attendance

Administration Present: Dr. Ron Large, Principal and Maaike Burr, Assistant Principal

Teachers Present: Paula Downey, Michelle Casey

Parents/Community Present: Doraine Melton, Elizabeth Olson, Anne Spivey, Kimber Liu, Leila Brihoum, Melanie Petersen, Maureen Sowers, Mike Schuppner, Cathy Mestre, Sharon Espinosa, Melanie Judy, Donna Wright, Donis (Karinne) Gomez Wright, Rosa Deeb

Students Present: Tamara Brihoum (Senior)

Parents/Community Absent: Tina Robers (excused)

Guests: Melinda King, Maria Ripol

Chair Report

SAC Chair Doraine Melton toured the Community Food & Outreach Center. She said she liked the organization and it may be a good fit for our high school students looking for volunteer hours. They accept volunteers age 16 years and older. The facility is always in need of protein food items. They offer courses in how to access services such as food stamps, Medicaid, child support, etc. They have a food center and a thrift store. The food center is available through application only as it is income based. The thrift store is open to the public. Doraine asked if SAC members want to continue to contribute money monthly that will be used to buy protein food for the center or do we want to collect money to assist faculty or students at Cornerstone.

After member discussion, it was decided that the SAC members will continue to donate \$1 - \$2 a meeting. Money collected will be used to support needs at Cornerstone such as uniform and clinic assistance. Doraine will consult with Whitney Brandt about the best use of the funds.

There are currently three vacancies on the SAC committee. The vacancies were created by the resignation of Lynn DeJarnette, Carolina Fernandez's absenteeism, and the termination of Middle School teacher Eloisa Cruz. A motion to accept Lynn's resignation was made, seconded and passed. As Lynn and Carolina both served as alternates, it was decided by SAC committee members not to fill their open positions. Administration will determine if there is another teacher to fill Ms. Cruz's position.

A call was made for additional agenda items. No further items were identified.

Vice Chair Report

The current balance for the School Improvement Fund is \$2714.01. There is an additional \$32 in petty cash. A deposit was received in the amount of \$264 in December.

Vice Chair Anne Spivey was given \$52 collected at tonight's meeting to place in the petty cash fund.

Anne updated the committee on the 4th grade field trip scholarships and stated no money was requested so no funds were used.

The campus store is in need of volunteers. In the past, volunteers have come from SAC committee members. Members who are interested should contact Whitney Brandt.

Secretary Report

All committee members acknowledged receiving a copy of the draft minutes from the November 8, 2011 meeting. No corrections were noted. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.

An updated membership roster will be provided before the next meeting.

Staff Report

Administrative Report: Dr. Large stated the school will begin to utilize classroom space in the church in the next few weeks. High school students will no longer be using the portables. The portables will be demolished and the area will be used as a green space. Next school year the hope is we will obtain even more space in the church and the entire high school will be housed in that building.

Dr. Large acknowledged there has been quite of bit of concern expressed over Spanish classes being taken through virtual classes. He said administration is aware of the problems and is working to address the situation by next semester.

Dr. Large also said he is aware there has been concern over the lack of communication from some of the athletic programs. He relayed two new sporting teams were added this year. As a second year school, we are still under a probation period and scheduling games is difficult for new teams. He reminded members that our athletic programs are still evolving and growing pains are inevitable.

Upper Academy staff changes were made in November due to budget constraints. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Elliott's positions were terminated. Ms. Watts and Mr. Martinez remain with the school but are in different positions.

Cornerstone's 2011 High School report card was incomplete as we did not have enough students to receive a rating. We have enough students this year so we should receive a grade for the 2011-2012 school year. FCAT Saturday School will be offered again this year.

Parents are being asked to fill out "Letters of Intent to Return" for current students. The due date for the form is March 30th. The form helps the school with enrollment management. The school does not currently offer an exit interview for families who indicate they are not returning. SAC Chair Doraine Melton suggested to Dr. Large that the school consider doing this.

Homecoming week was a success. The high school dance was held at the Doubletree Hotel downtown. Our students were commended for their good behavior.

Teacher's Report

Lower School Report (K-5): Paula Downey reported that 1st grade is planning a field trip to Leu Gardens in March. All elementary grades are currently undergoing FAIR testing and 1st grade is taking STAR assessments. Second grade is holding an ICE Olympics this week to reinforce the unit study they have been doing on states of matter. They will also be having a Wax Museum. Third grade recently completed the Foresight Test and teachers have seen a huge gain in achievement. Fourth grade went to St. Augustine in December and they are involved in daily enrichment for FCAT Writes. They plan to participate in Pioneer Days as well. Fifth grade is hosting FCAT night on January 24th.

Upper School Report (6-12): Michelle Casey stated Ms. Ramos is holding auditions for Black History month in February. Science Fair is Thursday night. Teachers are excited about the projects they have seen the kids bring in. The Orlando Science Center will also be participating to offer hands on experiments for the younger students. The goal is to make the event bigger and better every year. Curriculum planning is going on for next year. Course selections will go out to students at the end of February or beginning of March.

Old Business

Student Government: Tamara Brihoum said the school is going to offer a dress swap for prom.

Church School Relations: Rosa Deeb reiterated that the church has decided to let the school have classroom space on the 2nd floor. Plans remain for the church to move to the old building across the street next year. The church

will continue to have a relationship with YMCA for after school care and the church will again offer the Livingstone Club.

Volunteer Crossing Guards: Sharon Espinosa said there is no new information to report at this time. The hope remains that eight parents will be approved to take a four hour class which will allow them to cover if a school crossing guard needs a day off.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.