

CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES
March 8, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Administration Present: Principal Kerri O'Sullivan

Teachers Present: Paula Downey, Michelle Casey

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

Students Present:

Guests Present: Tina Robers

STAFF REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Ms. Kerri O'Sullivan announced that there were 325 new applications so far and that was with no paid marketing.

Ms. O'Sullivan handed out the racial and economic community of the school.

2010-2011	K-5	6-8	9-12	K-12
Native American	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific	0.0	3.0	1.9	2.4
Black	4.8	3.4	3.7	3.7
Hispanic	16.8	16.5	23.5	18.9
Multiracial	2.8	3.8	1.9	2.8
White	72.9	73.4	68.5	71.6
Total Percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: with a minimum of 13 voting members, this council should have two to three Hispanic members and one to two other than white members.

The Upper Academy students are currently registering for Dual-Enrollment summer/fall classes at Valencia. The **Florida Virtual School** (FLVS.net) is offering the following **AP** courses in Art History, Biology, Calculus AB/BC, Computer Science, English Lang. & Composition, English Lit. & Composition, Environmental Science, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Spanish Language, Statistics, U.S. Government & Politics and U.S. History. In addition, Graphic Arts and Computer elective software has been ordered.

The new Upper Academy tardy policy was announced last week and started this past Monday. It became necessary because the first period teachers were being interrupted so much that they were only having 30 minutes to teach. Not only was this unfair to the teachers but the timely students' education was being affected. As of last week there were an average of 50 students late per day: Monday there were just over 30 and Tuesday there were about 20.

Ms. O'Sullivan was pleased to announce that Interactive White Boards and Projectors have been ordered for every Lower Academy classroom. She has ordered five (5) computers per class and two (2) for roaming carts for computer labs. She also announced that everything is in order to implement the **AR** program in the Lower Academy next year.

When asked about the viability of the lunch program Ms. O'Sullivan said it was a Federally mandated and funded program. There were 310 lunches served today. Also announced were the new vending machines.

TEACHER'S REPORT

Ms. Paula Downey reported that the 4th graders felt prepared for and confident after the FCAT Writes. She said that she was amazed at the whole Lower Academy's support of the 4th graders. Ms. O'Sullivan reported that there were mixed emotions among the 8th and 10th graders. She wanted to clarify that individual FCAT scores are not a graduation requirement.

Ms. Michelle Casey announced that there will be a Bio-tech/Medical major beginning with 9th grade next year. She indicated that the Upper Academy Student Government is very small and their involvement is limited so getting a student to the Council meeting is difficult. It was acknowledged that until the Upper Academy student population grows getting student involvement on the Council will be a challenge.

OFFICER'S REPORT

CHAIR'S REPORT: Ms. Ann Bennett reported on Pioneer Days. She was pleased with the approximately 500 volunteers from Cornerstone and the nearly 8,000 attendees especially after a two-year break. She said that they are planning to have it the same weekend next year. Ms. O'Sullivan indicated that she was very pleased with the event, the groups communication with Cornerstone and how clean the grounds were afterwards. She indicated that next year she will see that the building is staffed from start to finish.

Ms. Kim Dewey withdrew her kids from Cornerstone and has submitted her resignation from the Council. Due to extenuating circumstances Ms. Dena Hernandez has also submitted her resignation from the Council. Motion passed unanimously to accept their resignations.

Non perishable food items were collected at this meeting in response to a request of a family in need from our school. Ms. Melton asked if this was something this council was interested in doing at each meeting. Ms. Kimber Liu suggested that we utilize the Angel Food Ministries. The menu information changes monthly and we could collect \$1 from each SAC member. Ms. O'Sullivan said she would match our contribution in order to pay for one order per month. The recipients will be determined by Ms. Whitney Brandt (Thornberry) in the volunteer office. It was also discussed that there are a lot of community resources for families in trouble and that a list of these resources should be available for our families with needs. It was agreed that a list will be compiled and copies available through the volunteer office as well as the web site.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BYLAWS: Prior to the next meeting everyone receive an electronic version of the bylaws to review. Motion to change Section 5 of Article V: Membership of the draft bylaws from "maximum of five (5) minimum of four (4)" to "a minimum of two (2) members" passed unanimously. Motion to pass the bylaws as changed passed unanimously.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE: Ms. Tina Robers came to the meeting to discuss the proposed Cornerstone Exchange. Collection of inventory will begin once the proposal is approved. As an incentive to encourage families to donate used uniforms they will receive one "Cornerstone Cash" dollar per item donated that may be used to purchase one new item in the exchange when opened. This is limited to uniforms donated by March 24th. The exchange will be open one day/week until there is the demand for more hours. They will be open from 1pm - 3pm on Thursday, beginning April 7th. They will be located at the athletic office on Randolph Street. Polos, pants, shorts, and gym clothes will be \$5/each. Jackets and girl's sweaters will be \$10/each. August 15-19, which is week before school starts, they plan to be open during orientation. The Uniform Exchange store will also serve as a central lost & found. After the item has not been claimed for a month, it will then go to the exchange shelves to be sold. Sales will be on a "cash only" basis and the cash box will be returned to the main office at the close of the transaction day. Ms. O'Sullivan suggested that a line item will be established in Cornerstone's budget and that a separate account will not be necessary. There was a motion to establish a School Improvement Fund as line item in the school's budget for the exchanges revenues. Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON ELEMENTARY PE CIRICULUM: It was noticed by several parents that the grades were separated and that more age appropriate activities were implemented this past month. Some of the middle school children were not happy with

the changes because there were not enough of them to play any team sports. There was a discussion regarding the lack of PE locker rooms. Not only were items being lost but when the teens are dressing in the bathrooms around the lunch hour the smaller kids around lunch time were unable to use the restrooms. Ms. O' Sullivan said that the Field House would not be ready for regular use until next year. She will see if PE hours could be before and after the lunch hour so that the restrooms would not be busy during those times.

NEW BUSINESS:

FEEDBACK ON SPRINGBOARD, CARNEGIE MATH AND FCAT EXPLORER: Confidentiality is a concern on the Carnegie math. It has been rumored that some kids are negotiating electronic work with other students and in one instance it is believed that a student's work was sabotaged. Ms. O'Sullivan admitted that there will always be those entrepreneurs willing to do school work for other whether it is electronic or not. She would like to be notified personally and immediately if there is any sabotage going on in order to address it with the students personally.

FCAT SATURDAY ACADEMY: Ms. O'Sullivan said that there were 157 students invited to the Saturday programs and 42 in attendance. Feedback from the parents were generally positive and they felt like this was a show of a school concerned about its students.

SPECIAL/GIFTED EDUCATION: Ms. Anne Spivey received a request that we have a discussion regarding the special and gifted programs at Cornerstone. Children cannot be officially tested for or identified as gifted or challenged until the end of first grade. If it is determined that a child at the school is gifted then there is a program in place to accelerate their learning. Ms. O'Sullivan indicated that in at least one case a child has been raised to the next grade and even spends some time in the grade above that one for the area of their proficiency. It is Ms. O'Sullivan's plan to greatly improve on the school's Gifted program. On the other side of the spectrum, Ms. O'Sullivan said that a teacher is explicitly told not to "dumb-down" the curriculum. If there is a student experiencing challenges then some tutoring has been implemented, however, if the challenges become too difficult for the student then other resources have been recommended.

RECONSIDERATION OF DUCK MASCOT: Ms. O'Sullivan recognizes that the a majority of the school's families want the duck mascot reconsidered. Unfortunately, this is a lower priority then the academics of the school. Once the academics of the school has been proven with high FCAT scores then this issue may be address with the Board.

ADJOURNED at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doraine Melton
SAC Secretary