

CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 11, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Attendance

Administration Present: Dr. Ron Large, Principal

Teachers Present: Paula Downey, Michelle Casey

Teachers Absent: Eloisa Cruz (excused)

Parents/Community Present: Doraine Melton, Elizabeth Olson, Anne Spivey, Lynn DeJarnette, Kimber Liu, Leila Brihoum, Rosa Deeb, Melanie Petersen, Tina Robers, Maureen Sowers, Mike Schuppner, Cathy Mestre, Sharon Espinosa, Melanie Judy

Students Present: Tamara Brihoum (Senior)

Parents/Community Absent: Donna Wright, Carolina Fernandez, Donis Gomez (Karinne) Wright (excused)

Guests: Melinda King

Chair Report

SAC Chair Doraine Melton made a call for additional agenda items. Maureen Sowers asked to speak about clinic needs.

SAC Chair Doraine Melton explained that last year's SAC committee members donated money at meetings to purchase food through Angel Industries on behalf of families in need at Cornerstone. Angel Industries is no longer operational. Mrs. Melton asked if this year's SAC committee is interested in collecting a charitable donation at each meeting. All SAC members were in agreement they would like to do this. Kimberly Liu discussed various organizations in the community that provide resources for families but she suggested SAC consider the Community Food and Outreach Center. Anne Spivey also suggested Honey Baked Ham. Mrs. Melton stated she would further explore these options and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Report

The current balance for the School Improvement Fund is \$2200.01. Spirit shirts are being sold out of the SAC Uniform Store. The store is making \$2 per shirt, \$3 if a name is added. SAC Chair Doraine Melton suggested we order 29 extra spirit shirts for a total of \$203.00. A motion to purchase the shirts was made, seconded and passed.

Inventory is low in the uniform store. Vice Chair Anne Spivey said incentive ideas are needed to bring in more items.

Secretary Report

SAC Secretary Elizabeth Olson indicated a roster is being completed of all SAC committee members. The roster will be emailed to members within the next week.

All committee members acknowledged receiving a copy of the draft minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting. No corrections were noted. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.

Staff Report

Administrative Report: Dr. Large pointed out the "Data Wall" in the computer lab. It indicates how students are doing per grade on benchmark data. He also discussed the use of "common boards" by all teachers. Teachers are

actively being engaged in discussions about what it means to be part of a municipal charter and what the culture of Cornerstone looks like. Department collaboration is ongoing and he hopes there will eventually be more vertical planning between grades. Best practices continue to be implemented in the curriculum.

Class officers were elected in the High School this week. Student Government is up and running.

There is a character curriculum that is integrated with the student planners. Each month the students focus on a character building topic.

Currently, the Guidance Counselor position remains unfilled. Brenda Thornton has officially started as the Middle School science teacher. This week is FTE week. What our attendance is at the end of the week will determine how much funding we are awarded. As of today, we have a total of 966 students.

We are at the end of our fall sports season. Football and girls volleyball are winding down. Winter sports will be boys and girls basketball. There will also be a middle school basketball team for boys. In the spring there will tennis, lacrosse, softball and baseball. A running team is also being considered. Dr. Large is exploring options for next year for a home field for football and other outdoor sports.

Teacher's Report:

LOWER SCHOOL REPORT (K-5): Paula Downey said really good things are happening in the elementary school. In October, each grade will get a day for the teachers to have substitutes in their room so the teaching team can go on a tour of the school and observe other classrooms. This is being done as professional development for the teachers.

The STAR reading assessment is being administered to students currently. This will give all students an AR level and will line up with other benchmark tests. To date, 1, 271 AR quizzes have been passed since the beginning of the school year.

There is a K-5 soccer league starting. Students will be put in divisions based on their age. The season will last for six weeks and games will be played on Saturdays. Coach Anderson is still signing children up for the Little Ducks Basketball league for K-5.

Progress Book (K-4) and Jupiter Grades (5th) are being used to track student work and keep up with student assignments. Teachers have found it helpful when parents sign up for alerts to monitor their child's progress.

Upper School Reports (6-12): Michelle Casey reported professional development is ongoing. Cross curriculum training will be coming soon. She said she is getting support from OCPS to help address the guidance counseling needs of students while the Guidance Counselor position is vacant.

Mrs. Casey indicated 55 students have elected to participate this year in the Bio-Medical elective class. The Bio-Medical program is based on a national curriculum. Students participate in science labs that are student centered and comparable to work being done on a college level.

The PSAT test is October 12th for 9th and 10th graders. It is optional for 11th graders. It was recommended by Anne Spivey that a college night be held for parents of high school students to inform them of testing options and college requirements.

Old Business:

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: SAC Chair Doraine Melton said the School Improvement Plan has been drafted and will be submitted to the School Board for approval on October 28, 2011. She encouraged committee members to read the document as it has a large volume of information. A copy will be provided via email to committee members once it has been approved by the Board.

A review of PTSA's end of school survey identified the top three parent priorities:

Effective Parent-School Communication (89%)
Improving Academic Success (84%)
Safety and Security (80%)

FACILITIES AND CHURCH RELATIONS: Rosa Deeb indicated her primary purpose as a member of SAC is to improve communications between Cornerstone and Pine Castle United Methodist Church (PCUMC). She provided a

handout that outlines the church's history and the current situation with the ownership of the church property. The facilities that Cornerstone utilize have been deeded back to SunTrust. Cornerstone now has a lease with SunTrust instead of PCUMC. The services that will be affected by this new situation are:

YMCA before and after school program
On the Rock Preschool
Livingstones Christian Club
Boys Scouts

New Business:

SAC Chair Doraine Melton said she would like SAC to present a plan to the School Board for a campus ID/Entrance card system. Further discussion about this topic will be held at a future meeting.

Dr. Large is open to the idea of holding a quarterly Coffee with the Principal.

PaperRetriever.com is being organized by the PTSA.

A scale and eye charts are needed for the school health clinic for state mandatory health screenings. Cathy Mestre is going to speak to her husband to see if his office would be able to lend the needed equipment to the school. A chiropractic office has been secured to do the scoliosis screenings for 6th graders. Two parents who are audiologists are going to volunteer their time to do the hearing screenings.

Dr. Large said funds are available through the school and Cornerstone will reimburse for dual enrollment text books if a receipt is provided.

The following agenda items were tabled for a future meeting:

Multiple Teacher Websites
Standardized Grading System
Electronic Books

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m