

CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Attendance

Administration Present: Dr. Ron Large, Principal

Teachers Present: Paula Downey, Eloisa Cruz

Teachers Absent: Michelle Casey (excused)

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

Students Present: Tamara Brihoum (Senior)

Guests: Russell Robers, Dyanne Kozlowski

Welcome and SAC Overview

Chair Doraine Melton welcomed everyone in attendance and provided a basic overview of SAC. She introduced the SAC Officers for 2011-2012:

Chair – Doraine (Doc) Melton

Vice Chair – Anne Spivey

Secretary – Elizabeth Olson

Lead Teachers for 2011-2012:

Upper Academy: Michelle Casey

Lower Academy: Paula Downey

SAC Goals identified for 2011-2012:

*Viable Student Government with Student Representation on SAC

*Viable Campus Store to generate money for the School Improvement Fund

*Viable School Effectiveness and School Conditions Survey

*Viable School Improvement Plan for 2012-2013

Staff Report

Administrative Report: Dr. Large provided personnel updates. Maaiké Burr has been hired as the new Vice Principal. She will be starting in the next few days after she completes her move from New York. A brief biography was provided in last week's Cornerstone Chronicle.

Brenda Thornton is in the hiring process to be the new Middle School science teacher. Dr. Large hopes to have her hiring finalized by the end of this week. Matthew Nibert has been hired as the new Facilities Manager. He has already started in the position and he has children that attend Cornerstone. Terry Hummel's last day will be Friday, September 17th. Dr. Large has begun the interview process to fill his position.

Dr. Large said his vision is for Cornerstone to be a model school. He defined "model school" as a school that people seek out due to excellent academics, excellent personnel and excellent student behavior. He is excited by the large number of high achieving children at Cornerstone and the goal is to make sure the students are being challenged every day. Differentiation in instruction is provided in the classroom to meet the needs of all students.

Dr. Large looks forward to working with the SAC committee this year. He values the input, perspective and feedback he receives from SAC members. He stated the Upper School will have a Student Government and Traci Reitz has agreed to be the teacher sponsor for the group.

Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th for K-5 and Thursday, September 22nd for 6-12.

Dr. Large fielded questions from committee members and guests. Sharon Espinosa asked to have a discussion about standardized grading in the Upper Academy. SAC Chair Doraine Melton recommended this topic be tabled for the next meeting.

Teacher's Report: Paula Downey reported teachers are thrilled with the new promethean boards. She said new pieces have been added to the curriculum. She is seeing the benefits of the professional development teachers underwent in the summer. Fall benchmark testing is going on now. Third, fourth and fifth grades are all doing team teaching this year. Accelerated Reader has been added and students are starting to use it in the classroom.

Mrs. Downey and Mrs. Casey were recently able to tour other Academica schools. Mrs. Downey reported they learned a great deal and brought back several best practices to implement at Cornerstone.

Eloise Cruz reported Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th – October 15th. She and Mrs. Ramos are planning to hold a Hispanic Heritage Day at Cornerstone. The tentative date for that event is October 25, 2011.

Elections: Nominations for SAC committee members were accepted from the floor. Election results were:
Community Representatives: Kimber Liu, Rosa Deeb, Lynn Dejarnette (alternate), Donna Wright (alternate)
Upper Academy Parents: Sharon Espinosa, Leila Brihoum
Middle School Parents: Tina Robers, Maureen Sowers, Cathy Mestre (alternate), Donis Gomez Wright (alternate)
Elementary School Parents: Melanie Peterson, Mike Schuppner, Carolina Fernandez (alternate), Melanie Judy (alternate)

Meeting Schedule: Meeting dates for the 2011-2012 school year were discussed. Kimber Liu motioned to accept the amended meeting dates and Anne Spivey seconded the motion. The meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Olson
SAC Secretary

