

Syringa Mountain School

Work Session Minutes – 05-04-17

Attending:

Randy Flood - BOD
Amy Jonas - BOD
Kirsten Kolkmann
Dena Buchman
Bianca Grimm
Christine Fonner
Phoebe Pilaro @ 315 BOD
Angi Hunter - BOD
Tenaya Kolar - BOD
Kristin Funk
Crystal England
Nancy Linscott
Autumn Lear
Shannon Connauton
Keith Davis
Kelly Siemens
Liz Corker
Amy Carse
Janet Zeigler
Myra Bracero @ 340
Greg Bloomfield @ 340
Angie Grant @ 404
Michelle Sandoz @ 415
MA Hansen
1 SMS parent

Meeting Called to Order by Randy Flood at 3:10pm. Board Members Present: Randy Flood (RF), Tenaya Kolar (TK), Angi Hunter (AH), Amy Jonas (AJ), Phoebe Pilaro (PP). Non Board Members: See list above

Opening circle

Any additions:

II. RF - Move public comments to the end

III. Thanks to B. Filbert

IV. Bucket of Expenses review by RH

a. Attendance impact / cost to school

BCSD 91%
SMS ~70%+

b. State funding dollars breakdown:

\$506k teaching
\$200k administration
\$100k other buckets

RF thanks to C Fonner for cost savings to date

Including fundraising we have \$1.03M income and \$1.21M outflow so still a \$178k+ deficit. Is the current fundraising \$\$ sustainable?

questions from public addressed and discussed - development director position and what is included in administration bucket (director/leader for state compliance, business ops, bookkeeping, insurance, legal, copier, IT etc).

c. Thanks to CFonner for renewal of charter and other

d. Budget v5 review - big idea between 16/17 and 17/18 budgets is the amount of funding we can do without missing an event? what can our events create? looking at this year, after hoe down and gifts we are still \$60k short for Aug 2017. Things impacting this are average daily attendance (ADA), payment disbursement schedule and 2/17 state funding recalculation.

Thank you teachers who gave their payroll dollars back to the school.

RF - The current model is not sustainable.

public comment: can parents pay for absences; there are models where public schools ask parents to pay; why is ADA so low; parents aren't aware; why is it tied to this?

recap of above b/c PP arrived

RF - breakeven analysis provided is not useful as it looks at 200 students and 30 kids/classroom and doesn't include many of our programs that make us unique

more public commentary/questions

e. construction costs increased, need additional \$150k - can pull from equity in construction loan @ 3.75% over 30 years; timing is essential as there is limited amount of USDA funds available now

RF - motion to approve this will be on next meeting agenda

f. save for building committee

RF - motion for building committee to approve

TK made the motion for building committee to approve line item f; AJ - second; AIF, none opposed

V. Kristin Funk (KF) - last 3 years' model is broken. CF asked for ideas on how to look through another lens; faculty met and created their handout. college of teacher model was born. sms is not a traditional school so we need a model that is not traditional.

TK - what are the main differences in your model?

Shannon C (SC) - going forward can teachers take on all the tasks v5 budget suggests or could we better work in a committee and keep some of what v5 removes?

KF - the roles created in new model are not "new"; they are just where each teacher is strong and would support their current skill set.

SC - keep handwork and farm and garden seasonal; spanish and music year round; need para's can't run without them

KF - administration is not a FT job

public comments

KF - keep in mind this is just a proposal and 7 teachers agree with it

RF - we can't put a number on the cost of change

Greg Bloomfield comment from past BOD president: 1) can the burden placed on teachers really be manageable 2) school's are typically run like a business not by committee

5pm public comment continues

Liz Corker--guest with outside perspective--says our issues are surmountable. That the conversation is HEALTHY even if it doesn't feel that way.

- Average Daily Attendance is something the current BCSD admin has tackled, which is why they have 91% attendance. It's just money sitting on the table.
- Legislature is working to change the funding formula next session to help with long term survival. Most important thing for us now is the talk with other Charter School leaders and determine how to best lobby the legislature (grassroots change is the way this happens). Build relationships of trust with legislature.

Kirsten Kolkmann notes this tough time has inspired beautiful collaboration, but has concerns about dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's to make sure everything happens that needs to.

5:15 public comment continues

CF - difficult part for her has been the negative assumptions behind her intentions. She has what is best for the school at heart. Come talk to her. May not be your forever leader, but maybe 3-5 year leader to get you there.

5:30 Randy closes meeting