

Riverside Drive Charter School Governance Council Meeting Minutes 9/26/18

Attendance

Present: Erin Haynes, Barbara King-Wilson, Nicole Harris-Johnson, Kris Nevills, Sybil Azur, Caryn Burkhart, Heather MacLeod, James Becher, Jenni Sawin-Gerdes, Julia Olsson, Robin Adler, Jenifer Roosevelt, Teresa May

Absent: Pearl Brinkley

Reading and Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

Everyone reviewed the minutes from the August 2018 meeting. There was a motion to approve minutes from the August 2018 by Mrs. Harris-Johnson, seconded by Ms. Adler.

All in favor: 10

All opposed: 0

Motion approved.

California Dashboard

Ms. Haynes discussed that there are seven indicators. She asked for input from the teachers to rate where the school is for indicators 1) teachers and credentialing curriculum and deficiencies, and 2) a self-reflection survey. Teachers gave their input. Ms. Haynes explained indicators three through six. She informed everyone that indicator seven is blank until further information is given.

Ms. Haynes suggested that we revisit the California Dashboard, specifically indicator number seven, during the next meeting.

Ms. Nevills suggested handing out information about it at Open House. Ms. Haynes suggesting having a seminar to explain it to parents. Mrs. May suggested letting to school body know about the improvements made. Mrs. King-Wilson suggested having the PTA inform members. Ms. Haynes says Parent Center is opening and information can be disseminated there.

Budget Carryover

Ms. Haynes said she met with LAUSD fiscal employee, and the school will likely get funds in about one week.

Ms. Haynes said that no one qualified applied for the Computer Lab job because the daily hours are too short, but that we have \$31,481 available to purchase a computer program. She suggested that per her research, ComputerWiseKids is an option. Ms. Burkhart asked if the school has enough funds. Mr. Becher asked about how it works. Ms. Haynes went over Computerwise flyer. Mr. Becher made some clarifications about the program. Ms. Haynes proposed grade level implementation based on an agreement with where each teacher is at. She stated that the program would cost \$42,700 for five days a week. We are short \$11,282, but can make up the deficit with

carryover. Mrs. King-Wilson asked teachers perspective. Ms. Nevills expressed concern about where to spend the money, but agreed that it's a good idea. Mrs. May asked about how it would work with teachers and if all grades would use it. Ms. Haynes said yes, and that it would start on October 22, and clarified what we have to do to prepare. Mrs. Harris-Johnson asked if it would last the entire school year. Mrs. King-Wilson encouraged the group to think about long-term goals. Mr. Becher asked if teachers would be able to customize based on their needs. Ms. Haynes said that the instructors would work with teachers as a team to fulfill the teachers' needs.

Mrs. King-Wilson made a motion to approve the ComputerWiseKids program.

Mrs. May seconded the motion.

All in favor: 10

All opposed: 0

Motion approved.

Closed Campus

Ms. Nevills proposed the possibility of the school implementing a closed campus. She explained that students would be dropped at certain gates, with a Kiss and Ride program. She clarified that the purpose would be student and faculty safety. She proposed that it be rolled out over the course of a year, and that the district would come out and help. Morning drop off the priority.

Mrs. Harris-Johnson asked why it would take a year. Ms. Haynes informed Governance that there should be a well thought out planning process, which would include discourse with parents and faculty. She relayed that Officer Perez said that lack of parking might be a problem, thereby causing more students to be tardy. We would have to start Kiss and Ride, valet drop off system on Ethel,, and district policy says that we need four district approved parent volunteers every day. Said perhaps Safety Committee can spearhead.

Ms. Roosevelt said that parents often want to talk to teachers in the morning, and occasionally discipline other people's kids. Ms. Adler was concerned about action if another child was aggressive. Ms. Burkhart urged the group to get back on topic.

Mrs. May asked how Kiss and Ride would work. Ms. Haynes said that there would a lot of communication beforehand, and that parents would be allowed on campus the first week of school. Mrs. King-Wilson expressed concern about parent reaction. She also proposed a Walk to School Day. Ms. Haynes made a recommendation to enter at a certain gate. Mrs. Adler said the Safety Committee could discuss. Ms. Haynes suggested we table it for the next meeting. Mr. Becher asked for time to contemplate the idea and expressed concern that the Huston gate is open in the afternoons. Mrs. King-Wilson expressed concern about impeding community building, but understands the teacher perspective. Mrs. Olsson suggested to frame it in way that makes sense, and to stress the safety of the children as our priority. Mrs. Sawin-Gerdes wasn't sure of parent motives of staying on campus. Mrs. MacLeod said that it's harder to build community working parent. Ms. Nevills relayed that her daughter attends SOCES, which is a closed campus.

Mrs. Harris-Johnson said that the primary goal should be the safety of the children, and that we should implement it in a way that suits community best. She said that perhaps there could be more PTA gatherings to community build and start the conversation. Mrs. May expressed support for the idea, and said that we should take small steps in that direction. Ms. Azur expressed a need to codify teacher/parent communication, so parents feel confident they can have their questions and concerns addressed. Ms. Haynes asked for discretion, as we are only in the discussion phase. Mr. Becher wanted to discuss again at the October meeting. Mrs. Harris-Johnson urged discretion, and that we need to form consensus before we move forward.

Committee Reports

Mrs. King-Wilson informed Governance that attendance and minutes need to be taken at each committee meeting, that they can elect a chair, and should schedule meetings for the rest of the year. She stated that it is not mandatory to be on a committee.

Art Committee- Ms. Burkhart stated that they haven't met yet, so there is no report.

Curriculum/Strategic Planning/Technology- Ms. Nevills stated that they haven't had first meeting, but they are trying to roll out 1 to 1 devices (computers). The second step would be ComputerWiseKids. She said she will call first meeting soon, and proposes to put all three above named committees together. Mrs. King-Wilson suggested voting on whether they can be combined.

Beautification- Mrs. MacLeod stated that they met and brainstormed about potential events and beautification projects, including an Earth Day event in April, more potted plants, drought resistant plants, classrooms with watering cans, murals, literacy tiles, garden area grass, and irrigation outside kinder rooms. Ms. Haynes stated that the district will not care for anything unapproved, the grass is mowed as a courtesy; garden and wood chips were taken out; can start from scratch so the district is engaged; irrigation can happen, but would have to look at cost; paperwork for murals; plants and potted plants have to be approved and funded externally. At one point, district discussed turning Ethel garden into parking lot. Ms. Azur asked about doing a presentation or assembly about climate change presentation; Ms. Haynes said to email her about a date. Mrs. Adler asked if the grass was included in care for ranger program. Ms. Haynes said no. Mrs. MacLeod asked if volunteers could care for the grass on Sundays. Ms. Haynes said yes.

ELAC- Ms. Haynes stated that five parents had been recruited and that they were meeting the next day.

Grant Writing- Mrs. May has formed with Valerie. Have not met yet.

Positive Behavior was set to meet on October 1st. The new assistant principal will be joining the committee, and they will also have a PSA counselor (attendance), as there have been 15.9% chronic absences for the last three years, 92 kids. Ms. Nevills stated that religious holidays may

contribute to absences. Ms. Haynes stated that the religious holidays observed, and that absence notes are not always cleared by teachers.

Safety- There will be an earthquake drill. They are working on future meeting dates. The Ethel gate has raised concrete being tripped on. The Huston gate should be locked after school with a key pad, as the aftercare kids are still on campus. Ms. Nevills asked about a code for two gates. Ms. Haynes stated that \$30,000 for two key pads. She has made a request about the sidewalk requested. Stated that Star needs the Huston gate open, and that the Youth Services kids can enter and exit. Mrs. Adler expressed concern over safety. Governance agreed to revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Ms. Azur asked about the possibility of getting a crossing guard for crossing Riverside at Ethel. Ms. Haynes stated that the LA Department of Transportation would have to do a survey.

Science- Ms. Roosevelt stated that they have had two meetings. She requested the list of other interested parents. She said that the science aid working nicely, the garden ranger program in full swing, they are starting work on the science fair, which will be in February. She proposed staggering project drop off, and to stipulate the projects are durable. She inquired about a PTA wish list budget. Their meetings are set for the rest of the year, and she is the chair of the committee.

Strategic planning- Ms. Haynes stated that they met already. They discussed developing the professional development program.

Ms. Nevills made a motion to make accept calendar

Mrs. Harris-Johnson seconded the motion.

All in favor: 10

All opposed: 0

Motion approved.

Public Comments

Mrs. May asked Governance could direct parents to sign up for committees. Mrs. King-Wilson said they can have a further conversation. Mrs. May said that making copies for the teachers has been working well, but she needs another parent to help. Ms. Haynes stated that there can be sign ups at the next pep on October 5th. She also stated that the Parent Center will be opening on October 17th at 9am, and that Governance should attend if possible.

Mrs. King-Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:08pm.