

Sky Mountain Charter School Meeting Minutes

SMCS Parent Council Meeting

By Webex Teleconference
8560 Aliento Road
Lucerne Valley, CA. 92356

February 13, 2014 at 1:30pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME/ROLL CALL**

Tracy Springford; SMCS Parent Council President, welcomed and thanked the parent council members for attending the meeting.

Attendees: Vikki Gonzales, Josie Robles, Renee Henry, Christine DeVries, Tracy Springford, Adriana Young, Greta Parker, Rocio Murillo, Genie Sloan-Pena, Jennifer Radford, Dawn Gendron, Allie Encarnacion, Jennifer Taylor, Kara Willis, Sarah Coyan, Eric Schoffstall

4. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Members of the public may be heard on any item. A person addressing the Council will be limited to 3 minutes, unless the Site Administrator grants a longer period of time. Comments by members of the public on an item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Council.

5. **REPORTS**

A. Yearbook Committee Report; Vikki Gonzales

- Vikki thanked the parent council on behalf of herself and the yearbook committee; Rocio Murillo and Genie Gloan-Pena, for listening to the update on the status of developing a SMCS yearbook.
- Purpose of the project is to create a record and memorialize these homeschooling years for our children; emphasized the importance of commemorating these years for our students.
- Parental involvement is essential to the success of the yearbook project.
- Yearbook committee is asking the Parent Council to help spread the word to families as family and student body involvement is necessary to make this a success.

- The yearbook the committee is hoping to finish the design and development of a 40 page, hard cover, full color yearbook; currently this is about half way designed.
- We must sell a minimum of 20 books in order to be able to produce the book.
- The yearbook committee is asking for parent council and school administration to help spread the word to families about uploading photos to the yearbook website and purchasing a yearbook.
- Yearbook estimated cost is \$19.95; delivery to the families home for an additional fee of \$8 to \$10.
- Marketing ideas: Listserv, email blast, phone announcement, website announcement, Newsletter announcement, flyers, page contest for students, ESs spread the word to families, announcements at test sites.
- Goal is to produce a momentum of the years spent learning at home and to be proud of the school which allowed them to do that.
- Update summary; asking for more involvement. If each member of the council purchased a book that would be enough to have the yearbook produced.
- Vikki's email address is on the contact roster; please feel free to email her.
- Kara Willis; SMCS Education Liaison will connect with Vikki and the yearbook committee to support spreading the word about the SMCS yearbook.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Motion to approve Independent Study Policy Revision

- Eric spoke on the revision; this revision is in response to giving our school an opportunity to deal with emergency situations. We want to be in compliance when handling these situations. In no means are we suggesting or changing our practice of meeting face to face. We value the experience of face to face for building ES and family relationships, evaluating students work, and the methodology of our homeschooling philosophy. This revision will help families who have an emergency to be able to meet with their ES so they are not issued truancy. We hope this will be rare; but in the event the option is needed we will be in compliance with this revision as our practice will match our policy.
- Christine DeVries asked if a vacation or travel plans would fall into the criteria of using a Skype meeting or other non-face to-face meeting.
- Eric reiterated that we are not changing our practice, but trying to be more accommodating in emergency situations. Eric stated he is not fully certain of all the criteria that have been identified as constituting emergency situations to authorize a Skype meeting. The situation would be taken from the ES to the advisor and the advisors will evaluate each situation for approval. Also, this is new and there will be a need for ES and advisor training as this evolves.

Adrianna Young motioned to approve the Independent Study Policy Revision; Genie Sloan-Pena seconded the motion. **Motion approved by unanimous vote

B. Motion to approve Education Protection Account

- Greta Parker asked if the way this is set up in regard to revenue is the norm.
- Eric reviewed the Education Protection Account. When proposition 30 was passed it was designed primarily to increase the floor level funding for K-12 education. The major purpose was to increase that funding level. The money was put in a special account and charter schools were required to identify where this money is going. This is not new money; this is money we have always received. We are identifying where we spend the funds and have always spent the funds, which is focused primarily toward the students. The money is put in the two accounts in our budget that fund instructional funds.

Jennifer Radford motioned to approve the Education Protection Account; Genie Sloan-Pena seconded the motion. **Motion approved by unanimous vote

C. Motion to approve Common Core State Standards Expenditure Plan

- Christine DeVries stated that she is curious as to why technology and assessment has the largest allocation amount; is there an outline/plan for how that will be handled or is that an anticipated need amount?
- Eric responded that it is a combination of both; specific needs have been identified. A major specific is the purchase of Chrome Books to meet the requirements for Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students will have access to the Chrome Books for taking the tests as there is no paper pencil test version. We are also researching Internet access options for testing sites. The planning for testing requires a great deal of orchestration.
- Genie Sloan-Pena asked if the students will be allowed to use and keep the Chrome Books at prior to the assessment to become familiar with the technology before the testing.
- Eric responded, and apologized, that he does not have the answer to that at this time. It is likely still under discussion; if we learn more about that Sarah will share that info with the parent council.
- Allie Encarnacion asked if the school considered renting the Chrome Books.
- Eric answered that it was considered but there are greater plans with the Chrome Books and the conclusion was that purchase is the best route for our school.

Vikki Gonzales motioned to approve the Common Core State Standards Expenditure Plan; Greta Parker seconded the motion. **Motion approved by unanimous vote

D. Motion to approve November 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Genie Sloan-Pena motioned to approve November 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes; Genie Sloan-Pena seconded the motion. **Motion approved by unanimous vote

E. Motion to approve February 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Josie Robles motioned to approve the February 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes; Genie Sloan-Pena seconded the motion. **Motion approved by unanimous vote

7. ADJOURN

Tracy and Eric thanked the Parent Council members for calling into the meeting and dedicating their time for two meetings this month. We appreciate their support and attendance.

Meeting adjourned 2:00pm