

Sky Mountain Charter School Meeting Minutes
SMCS Parent Council Meeting
Teleconference Meeting October 19, 2010 1:30-2:38

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

Shana Fisk, Sky Mountain Charter School Director: Welcome and thank you to Parent Council members.

Attendees: Shana Fisk, Susan Clark, Eric Schoffstall, Sandy Barela, Erin Havrilesky, Sarah Coyan, Jackie Mears, Deborah Morehead, Renee Cowan, Kitty Handberry, Renee Canham, Josi Robles, Nicole Hebbard, Maricel O'Sullivan, Karen Christopher, Trish Wellham, Josephine Holbach, Theresa Marji, Judith Claudi-Magnussen, Melissa Licudine, Margaret Kurtz, Abigail Hanson, Steve Askin

4. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

No Comments

5. **PRESENTATION ITEMS**

A). Erin Havrilesky, Curriculum/Guidance

Erin is working to combine the efforts of curriculum and guidance to support SMCS families; she spoke about ways of reaching goals and visions as the curriculum/guidance coordinator.

-ES training for awareness of NCLB and HQT requirements and the impact those have on HS students

-ES awareness and extended knowledge of the SMCS vendor list

-Parent awareness and extended knowledge of the SMCS vendor list

-Hands on science service vendors

-More A-G quality courses available for HS students

- This school year we are pleased to announce that the following courses were approved as "a-g" level courses by the University of California:

- World History
- US History
- American Government
- Algebra I

-In addition the following courses were re-approved:

- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12

B) Sandy Barela, GEA/Assessment

Sandy was very excited to announce and share some of the projects she has been working on as the assessment coordinator. The hope and vision is to raise testing scores and offer convenience to families during STAR testing time.

Goals to help raise testing scores:

Three new programs:

-**Reading Plus:** This program is geared toward helping students improve with reading comprehension and pace of reading skills. Reading Plus helps students to identify key words and helps build fluency. Reading quickly and efficiently is a quality that will be beneficial when students enter college.

- **Symphony Math:** This program is geared toward Kindergarten; it introduces online manipulative learning experiences that help young students learn how numbers work.

-**Lexia:** This is program that is designed to ensure the students know at least 80% of a lesson prior to moving forward; this way the student can truly learn and grasp the concept, this ensures the student is learning and not just moving through curriculum.

All three of these new programs help identify gaps in students learning. These programs will help bridge those gaps and help our students be more successful.

Scantron: Fall and Spring Scantron assessments help with placement and to find learning gaps; once the gaps have been determined the ES can generate worksheets and study guides for the student (including an answer sheet for the parents) to assist in filling those gaps and helping students grasp the concepts. Scantron is good practice, and helps prepare students for STAR testing.

These three new programs, along with assessments are designed to help with student struggles, and help build confidence. These learning tools are exciting because they enhance our vision of wanting the students to feel successful.

Sandy Barela is also working on a project to try and have STAR practice tests available for each family; we will follow up with an update on this when Sandy finds our more about when we might be able to offer these practice tests.

MEGA-STAR testing sites:

Parent feedback is very important; SMCS is excited to have an opportunity to apply some of the parent feedback in regard to STAR testing. Following is some exciting news about STAR testing this year:

-MEGA sites have been set up to accommodate a large amount of students, so all grades can test at the same time rather than in split shifts; this will also allow for the testing to start at 10:00 am, which will help avoid with morning rush stress and morning commuter traffic

While the students are testing:

-A vendor fair will be set up on the first day of testing for the parents; this will give parents an opportunity to see hand on, what some of the vendors have to offer

-A guest speaker will be at the testing sites for the parents on day two of testing; the speaker will offer professional development including ways to help the parents help the students (more information will be provided as soon as possible, about appropriateness for younger siblings who are not testing, or if arrangements will be set up at the sites to accommodate them)

STAR testing sites and dates:

-The official dates of STAR testing are still pending; this information will be published in early November

-There will be a small test site set up in Lake Arrowhead for people in the mountains

-The Mega-sites will be set up in the following areas (exact site location will be published when all the details with each vendor are completed)

-San Bernadino (for San Bernadino County)

-Riverside (for Riverside County)

-North Hollywood (for LA County)

-Santa Ana (for Orange County)

C). Shana Fisk, SMCS Update

-Thank you from Shana Fisk to the Parent Council

-SMCS currently has 1,646 enrolled students and 80 Educational Specialists

-Parent feedback is important to us and we are very excited about the Mega-Sites for STAR testing

-Shana introduced a brand new and exciting system that SMCS will be using; **One Call Now**

-One Call Now will allow the SMCS administration team to send phone messages to families in regard to issues with a high level of importance

-This is an exciting way to build community and stay connected

D). Susan Clark, IEM Report

-Susan Clark, operation coordinator at IEM, introduced herself and thanked the Parent Council for their time, which is valued by the organization

-IEM is committed to providing individualized learning experiences for students

-Collaborative efforts are ongoing toward developing the philosophy of individualized learning plans

Improve the offering:

-IEM is focusing on the development of a more effective tool for narrowing down the choice of curriculum and determining the best curriculum fit for each child; this includes parent/child assessment that establish specific interests and abilities, and then linking that information to specific curriculum choices

-The vision of this project includes a feedback feature; feedback will be a crucial aspect in developing this web based curriculum tool

-The hope is to roll out implementation of this new tool possibly by next school year

-IEM is also focusing on a tool that shows student Alumni success; this tool would include surveys from our Alumni that would help us understand their learning experience in our schools. The goal is to survey Alumni success after 1 year and again after 5 years; and hopefully we can capture some of their time to make quick videos on the different types of careers and work they did after graduating. These videos would be developed and available on a web video library.

-IEM is dedicated to continuing to provide a parent driven philosophy with high success rates

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A). Selecting of Subcommittees, Sarah Coyan

-Included in the role of a parent council member, is to be involved with a subcommittee

-The subcommittees are fundraising, graduation, yearbook, STAR, grants, and GEA's

-These are parent committees that are designed and developed by the parents who serve on them

-Each parent council member has been designated to a certain subcommittee to help ensure each member is on a committee and that each committee has support

-If a parent council member would prefer to serve on a different subcommittee than has been assigned please email me skyparents@ieminc.org and I will be happy to change the subcommittee roster (the roster also includes name/phone/email for each parent council member)

-Asked if anybody objected for this roster to be shared sent via email with the Parent Council members (No objections)

B). Adopted Budget, Eric Schoffstall

Eric reviewed the adopted 2010/2011 budget that was provided to the Parent Council prior to the meeting; he reviewed and explained the different columns, and projected budget/revenues

-IEM has over 15 years of experience of managing budgets

7. ACTION ITEMS

A). To adopt Independent Study Policy

-Policy was sent to the Parent Council for review prior to the meeting

-Independent Study Policy adopted by unanimous vote by all Parent Council members present at the meeting

B). To elect Parent Council Officers

-President role: work closely with each subcommittee

-Treasurer role: work closely with fundraising subcommittee

-Secretary: Parent Council correspondence and meeting minutes

-Theresa Marji voted in as SMCS Parent Council President by unanimous vote of each Parent Council member present at the meeting

Treasurer role will remain vacant, no volunteers to serve in this position at this time. If an interest arises by a Parent Council member to take this role please email Sarah Coyan at skyparents@ieminc.org and we can have an email vote

-Sarah Coyan voted in to remain as the SMCS Parent Council Secretary by unanimous vote of each Parent Council member present at the meeting

8. ADJOURN AT 2:38 PM