

Sky Mountain Charter School Meeting Minutes
SMCS Parent Council Meeting
Teleconference meeting March 18, 2010 1:30-2:42

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; introduced Patti Larriva, Assessment Coordinator and Lora Mosher, High School Guidance Counselor; introduced Susan Clark, IEM Corporate Secretary and Eric Schoffstall, Education Coordinator.

Attendees: Shana Fisk, Susan Clark, Eric Schoffstall, Patti Larriva, Lora Mosher, Sarah Coyan, Juliet Pailes, Elizabeth Eagen, Tammy Williamson, Catherine Hannah, Melissa Hoyal, Terri Lussenheide, Tari O'neil, Jackie Mears, Deborah Morehead, Kitty Handberry, Renee Canham, Josi Robles, Maricel O'Sullivan

4. Hearing of the Public

No comments

5. Presentation Items

A. Patti Larriva, Assessment

All STAR testing sites have been confirmed for April. Ten sites have been established with a great deal of research for accommodating families. The information on STAR testing sites can be viewed on the website at <http://www.skymountaincs.org/assessment/index1.htm>. Parent volunteers are still needed; interested parents please email scoyan@ieminc.org. Parent Council questioned, how are the geographic locations of the sites determined? Patti Larriva, Sky Mountain starts booking site locations in the summer; this is a long process. Shana Fisk added, factors need to be taken into consideration such as expenses and space available at different venues. If anyone on the council has connections with community centers, colleges, churches, etc. please email scoyan@ieminc.org. This is a huge project and any suggestions are welcome for the STAR subcommittee and assessment coordinator to review and consider. Parent Council questioned, if a family can switch to a different site than their ES assigns them to. Patti responded that families are placed at a site according to their location; the goal is to set up the sites in a way that nobody has to drive too far. If a family wants to change locations it would depend on the space available at that location and the cutoff date; if it is after the cutoff date and an emergency took place it would be taken into consideration.

B. Lora Mosher, Guidance and Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT)

Lora Mosher gave an overview on HQT. Implementation is taking place for ES and parent training for HQT requirements and how to meet those requirements. Lora Mosher and Sky Mountain administration highly encourages all families with high school students and with 7th or 8th grade students to review the

eight minute Power Point webex presentation, which gives a focal point to this complex matter. The presentation can be found in the Parent Manual on the school website in the High School Guidance section, link titled "*High School Courses: Meeting NCLB requirements*" Workshop.

6. Action Items

A. Fundraising monies

Beth Gath who is the coordinator for the parent and sibling portion of the GEA's received 3 large refund checks this year from vendors for unused parking passes, chaperone fee's, etc. for a total amount of \$1658.00. These checks were mailed to Shana Fisk who put the monies in the Bank of America Sky Mountain fundraising account for the parent council to determine how to spend. An additional \$75.00 was collected for fundraising from the box tops project. The parent council needs to determine how \$1733.00 of fundraising money will be spent. Last year the council chose to spend the fundraising money on graduation decorations. Shana Fisk opened the discussion for parent council suggestions.

-Debbie Morehead suggested using the funds to help with the parent/sibling portion of a GEA for a family who may not be able to afford the trip otherwise. This would include an application process and parent committee to set the criteria, review/accept the application, and make determination of who gets the funding.

-Jackie Mears suggested using the funds for a paid position with SMCS to help with GEA's. An example of this suggestion is to allow a high school student to be offered a paid "*job for the day*" opportunity to pass out tickets and assist with a large GEA like the one at California Adventures.

-Juliet Pailes suggested using the funds to set up a scholarship or reward program for SM graduation seniors. An example of the reward program would be a free yearbook. Having a scholarship for a graduating senior to help with college is important because every little bit counts and helps. This would include an application process and a parent committee to set the criteria, review/accept the application, and make determination of who gets the funding.

-Tari O'Neil agreed that the graduating seniors should be recognized by the Parent Council.

Shana Fisk needs to look into a couple of the suggestions before implementation could take place. An email will be sent to the council as soon as possible giving follow up information and then the Parent Council can vote on how to spend the monies via an email vote. No members opposed.

B. Susan Clark, Sky Mountain Financing

Susan Clark introduced and explained the ***California Charter School Acknowledgement Resolution*** for parent council discussion. Innovative Education Management (IEM) is responsible for the fiscal affairs and oversight of SMCS. Any major contracts are to be presented and approved by the SMCS Parent Council so the school receives full information and disclosure. Due to State budget crisis the cash flow for SMCS has been deferred. The overall budget for SMCS is in good shape, the revenue delay is what created a need for this resolution. Sky Mountain is bringing forward a Resolution to be voted on by the Parent Council that represents the ability for SMCS under leadership and authority of IEM to receive financing for cash flow. After consideration of several different options, IEM has chosen to do business with ***CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITOL***. Charter School Capitol is willing to keep a credit line for up to three years and be flexible in terms of buying receivables. This option also allows the flexibility to borrow what is needed only and is secure so that the school does not fall into a cycle of debt. We are selling

receivables, not borrowing money so we can't go deeper into debt. The Resolution presented to the council was a draft and sent via email only a couple hours prior to the meeting. Paragraph four of the resolution is not valid and will be removed. The Parent Council had a discussion and asked questions pertaining to the Resolution. Through discussion and clarification the council was given the opportunity to have a better understanding of the concept and the Resolution being presented by IEM.

-Will finance charges come out of SMCS budget? **YES**

-Concern with the cash flow problem, how will this impact instructional funds (IF's)? **We do have budget cuts, the revenue was reduced by 12%; this may affect IF's, however, we do not anticipate a drastic difference. IF's are the primary concern.**

-At the end of the 3 years, what if the State does not pay the deferred money? **The State has been faithful with paying the money, the school budget is strong, the cash flow is just not coming as we need it to and when we expect it to; the question is not if we will get the money but when we will get the money.** Let's just say we don't get the money; then who would be responsible for the loan? **Not the Parent Council, Not IEM, the school itself would be responsible for that loan. We can work with budget cuts and we are not going to borrow enough to put us under if that happened, just enough to secure the budget cash flow.**

-Concerns that the Resolution is in progress and has a paragraph that will be taken out. **This needed to be presented to the council at this scheduled meeting so that it could be moved forward with. The Resolution will be sent to the council with the paragraph in discussion removed. Vote of approval will be based on that paragraph being removed. We are asking the parents to understand the concept and the fact that SMCS needs a loan for cash flow issue. IEM is the one who signs for the fiscal affairs.**

-What happens if the Parent Council does not approve the Resolution, then what? **SMCS has to get funding/financing somewhere. If the council did not approve the resolution the company (CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITOL) would look at the Charter and see that IEM is the responsible party; however they could choose to not follow through without Parent Council support.**

-Suggestion from Parent Council: ES's should encourage families to not spend more than they need to since the unspent IF's go back into the school budget.

Information from IEM representation:

-State put a burden on schools with deferring monies beyond this fiscal year

-SMCS needs to secure some cash flow

-IEM will secure and manage the loan conservatively

-SMCS and IEM have the best interest of the students as priority

-This action is being pursued for the purpose of making a sound decision and planning ahead now rather than making a desperate decision later.

California Charter Schools Acknowledgement Resolutions was approved by the Sky Mountain Parent Council on March 18, 2010 by majority vote with the amendment that the paragraph in discussion be removed and the updated resolution be given to the council.

7. Adjourn

Thank you from Shana Fisk to Parent Council and IEM

Reminder- We need parent volunteers for the graduation and STAR parent committee's

Email will be sent with additional information for fundraising monies suggestions with an email vote for a majority rule determination of how the monies will be spent for the school.

****The Resolution has been amended and sent to the Parent Council via email attachment on 3/19/10.**

****California Charter School Acknowledgement Resolutions was signed by school secretary Sarah Coyan and given to IEM corporate secretary Susan Clark.**