

Approved

June 12, 2013
The Compass School Council
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

AGENDA

6 PM Call to order: Elizabeth Allen, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call of Member Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Dina Mandeville (DM), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Drew Virbila (DV), Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD), Michelle Clifford (MC)

Absent: Rick Rhodes (RR)- Enters at 6:10, Charlie Weygand (CW), Marisa Gallagher – (MG) Enters at 6:10,

Also present: Allen Zipke, Director; Kaleena Harrington, Business Manager;

Approval of minutes: EA motions to accept the amended minutes for March 13, 2013 and May 1, 2013.

Motion carries

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

Co-Op

- The Eco-Fair was a great success. We are still working on the total profit for the day, but it appears to be more than the previous year. Overall, the feedback that was received was positive.
- There was a meeting last week to write thank you letters to the vendors that attended the Eco-Fair.
- The Flag Football program had 18 participants and it ended the first week of June.
- The Yoga Club is currently running every Tuesday of the month.

Treasurer Report

1. Bank Statements and financials in compliance with covenants.
2. Business Manager working to finalize budget and get approvals from council.

Development Committee update:

1. No committee meetings during the months of May.

Approved

2. Farmhouse Renovations – Fully funded and project underway!
3. Capital Campaign – Barn Renovations \$800,000 Campaign Goal!
 - a. Received \$75,000 from a key foundation to kick off our Barn Renovation Capital Campaign.
 - b. eTapestry Fundraising Software contract signed. We received a 50% discount on monthly hosting fee from \$99/month to \$49/month.
 - i. DM imported or manually entered all fundraising data lists into system and is currently being reviewed by JW for updates. This includes parents, faculty, businesses & friends of Compass.
 - ii. Reviewing Capital Campaign letter for updates, sent to AZ & EA for review. They have approved the letter and will be entered into eTapestry in June for email and hard copy distribution to kick off initial community Barn Renovation capital campaign.
 - iii. Need to pick date for letter distribution, late June early July.
4. RILCS Development Collaboration Initiative - League of Charter Schools all charter development committee meeting slotted for July 16th at 4:00. DM will be attending.

Site

Farmhouse project

- o Project is underway and barring a few permitting/town hang-ups, things are progressing normally
- Boy's bathroom
- o Need to address smell issues
- Urinal in place of one of the toilets
- Replace or rework partitions
- Fiberglass paneling on the walls around the toilet areas
- o This summer would be a good time to get a plumber in the take care of this

Learning – No Report

EA accepts reports received by consent agenda.

Motion carries

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Council listened to the letter written by Mark Robidoux in response to the change in his TA position.

Director's report

Director's Report June 12, 2013

1. I received the Green Ribbon Award for Compass at a ceremony in Washington last week. There were representatives from across the country receiving recognition. A main message given by many of the speakers was that children learn better in schools with a green philosophy because they are healthier.
2. I think we all agree that the eco fair was extremely successful. There were a wide variety of activities and many people volunteered to make the day so enjoyable.
3. The Westerly Sun reported that the Westerly School System is looking into creating a charter school that would be part of their system. They are working on a primary school that would focus on civics.
4. I sent in a grant to the Lattner Foundation and last week we received a \$75,000 donation as a lead gift towards further renovations of our buildings. They also provided support this year with a similar donation.
5. The counseling program that we operated in conjunction with the counseling department at URI has been very successful. Parents have reported that the counselors were good and their children benefited from the program. We'll get feedback from parents and students who participated. Diane Barzaghi coordinated the program and also arranged a parenting program that was held at Compass.
6. Representatives from many of the charter schools will be meeting to see if there is a way to work together to provide special education programs. Special programs can be expensive and collaborating might be beneficial.
7. Work on the farmhouse is progressing. Once the work is completed early in the summer we will have to receive various inspections and permits. Kaleena has worked to get quotes for moving furniture to the farmhouse, phone services, and internet services. Work on all these efforts will have to be coordinated. Kaleena has also done a needs assessment for needed furniture and we will be using as much of our current furniture as possible.
8. Our 8th graders have taken the state's tech literacy assessment and Hilary reports that all the students passed.
9. Navigator students created solar powered cars for competition in the Junior Solar Derby that was held last weekend. Many of our students performed very well.
10. The blood drive that we held during the eco fair was very successful. We will hold another drive during parent conference day in September.
11. I've signed a contract with Blackboard Connect. This will allow us to provide notification to parents and staff for emergencies and school cancellations.

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12. On Thursday, June 13, we will be hosting 25 Chinese educators who are participating in a program at Brown University.

13. Dates:

June 15 – Navigators put on a performance of The Tempest at 4PM at URI

June 20 – at 9:15 students will meet with teachers they will have next year.

Later in the morning we will have a whole school gathering to recognize 8th grade students. After the recognition the whole school will participate in a salad lunch.

June 21- At 12:30 we will hold our 8th grade graduation ceremony.

Kaleena talked about the wireless initiative and about expanding and improving the wireless connection. Our proposal has been sent out to RIDE.

Land Use Sub-committee: Update on progress for farmhouse, barn, funding (CB, DM, EA)

DM talked about capital campaigning for the farm house. The goal is to get the initiative out in July/August.

Calendar 2013-2014:

EA motion to amend to include that the last three days of February break will be used as make-up days if it is deemed as an excessive amount of days as determined by council.

RR Seconds

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Council Elections: Announce winners of parent and teacher elections (ME)

The winner of the majority votes for parent representative is Elizabeth Allen.

The winner of the majority votes for teacher representative is Heidi Vazquez.

Budget: Review capital expenses and current budgets for '12-'13 and for next year, vote to approve as needed (Kaleena, DM)

DM motions to approve the three transfers regarding payment for the farmhouse renovations.

RR seconds

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

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DV requested taking some of the profits from the Eco Fair to purchase tables and a tent for the Co-op.

AZ explained expanding the half time special education teacher position to a full time position to address student needs.

Council retreat: schedule for July, August, September? (EA)

The council retreat is scheduled for Wednesday August 7, 2013 at 5:00pm. The retreat will be preceded by our next council meeting.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Council discussed the possibility of scheduling the new student orientation before Labor Day and the ice cream social after Labor Day.

MC asked a question that was brought to her attention about council offices. The concern was whether or not it is a conflict of interest that the council presidency at Compass is often held by a parent representative. According to the current bi-laws, the offices of president, treasurer, and vice president may only be held by a parent or community member. For any council member, if an issue came up that presented a conflict of interest, the voting member would abstain from the vote. All members of council have the same amount of responsibility and power to make and vote on motions at the council meetings – one vote for each teacher, parent, and community member.

Announcements

Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (1)

EA motions to enter executive session

HD seconds

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion carries

Enter Executive session at 7:15 pm

Exit Executive session at 7:19 pm

EA motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm