

Approved

February 13, 2013
The Compass School Council
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

AGENDA

EA calls the meeting to order at 5:55 PM

Members Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Drew Virbila (DV), Hilary Downes-Fortune (HF), Michelle Clifford (MC),

Members Absent: Rick Rhodes (RR), Dina Mandeville (DM), Marisa Gallagher (MG)

Also present:

Also present: Allen Zipke (AZ), Director, Kaleen Harrington (KH), Business Director

Approval of minutes

EA motions to approve the January 9, 2013 Council Minutes
Motion carries

Budget review

Kaleen Harrington (KH), Business Director presented the reporting requirements for RIDE and reviewed current budget and projections for school year 2012 – 2013.

Marisa Gallagher (MG) enters the meeting at 6:05pm

Allen will solicit a list of items that may impact next year's budget. Kaleena will use this information to develop a proposed budget for the 2013-2014 school year.

MC motions to approve the revised budget that Kaleena has presented to council

DV seconds

In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Carries

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

Treasurer's report

1. Bank Statements in compliance with covenants.

2. Business manager will present reporting requirements for RIDE and initial budget for school year 2013 – 2014 at 2/14/13 council meeting.

Co-op report

- We met on January 23rd
- Planning for the Eco-Fair has begun. Christine Skaggs is contacting vendors, Elisa Lucia is organizing the volunteers, and Kristin Kardos is organizing the entertainment. We have also decided on how the steps will be dividing up the annual booths. We have decided to extend the fair another hour to attempt to generate more revenue. There will be a save the date flyer going home soon.
- The next after-school club, swimming at URI, will be starting in March.

Site report

Land Use Sub-committee: Update on progress (CB)

- Land Use Subcommittee has met and selected a builder for the farmhouse project.
 - Josh Caswell (Caswell Constructions Systems llc) was selected
 - His price of \$160K was higher than the next bidder
 - Selected for his expertise in historical preservation
 - More experience with this type of project means a more realistic cost estimate at the start and less unforeseen costs coming up during the project.
 - He has submitted a contract which we will review and sign.
 - Once contract is signed and he receives a deposit:
 - Work like stripping and paint prep can start
 - Josh will start the permitting process
- Should just be a trip to the Building Official
 - The project should be fully underway by mid March or sooner
 - The Farmhouse will be OFF LIMITS to all children during this process!!
 - The farmhouse will also be unavailable to all teachers and staff for any kind of daily use until project completion.

The sub-committee will meet to further discuss use of the farm house and site development.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Cyrus discussed that he went to the Charleston Council meeting regarding the bill that is before the legislature that if the Charter School does not outperform the district that district does not pay for the child.

Director's report (AZ)

1. We were closed for three days as a result of the storm. Two of those days all districts were closed. On the third day only South Kingstown was closed. They made the determination that due to wires, trees, and narrow roads it was not safe to open. The statewide transportation system has a policy stating that they will not transport into a closed district. Chariho is part of the statewide system and would not transport students since South Kingstown was closed.

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Our lawyer stated that we would have increased liability if we asked parents to drive into a district that was closed for safety reasons.

I spent a significant amount of time on the phone with other districts and bus coordinators. We also had two conference calls with representatives from all school districts and emergency management people from the state. Closing on Tuesday also again raised the question of how tied are we to the decisions of other districts. I talked to Cindy Brown at RIDE, who is the person responsible for transportation. I expressed my concern about not being able to make our own decisions regarding makeup days or our calendar. At this point we would not have transportation on vacation weeks and some other days that don't match sending districts' calendars. She said she understood the issues and was pushing to have some discussions and decisions by people at RIDE, ultimately the commissioner. These decisions are crucial to creating a calendar for next year. I told her I would send her my concerns and she promised to keep in touch. I'll be sure to stay in contact with her. I'll also talk with other charters at our League meeting tomorrow.

2. I've been working with RIDE and submitted an application for a green ribbon award. RIDE recognizes schools that have a minimal impact on the environment, that have a positive effect on the health of students and staff, and that provide effective environmental awareness to their students. Our education program and efforts to learn about and take care of the environment makes us an excellent candidate for the award. I was just notified that we have won the award for RI and our application will be forward to Washington as part of the national competition.
3. We have held one open house for people interested in applying to Compass. We had about 100 people attend. We postponed our 2nd open house scheduled for last Tuesday. It will be held on February 26th. The lottery will be held on March 1st.
4. Our after school care program has started on a limited basis. It is being held every Wednesday from 3-5:30pm. A variety of activities are provided during the program and students are enjoying the program. We are offering a program for February vacation week.
5. Our students performed very well on the NECAP tests given last October. 94% of our students were proficient in both reading and math. I think this reflects very positively on our teachers and the individual attention given to each student.
6. We will be holding our annual Matty Hatty fundraising event this Friday at 2PM. Everyone is welcome to come and dance with us.
7. Encouraged by Barry Ricci, superintendent in Chariho, and sponsored by several legislators there is a bill that might possibly be submitted to the legislature that would be very harmful to charter schools. The bill states that if in any year the scores for a charter school are lower

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than the scores from a sending district that district would not have to pay the charter school its per pupil share. There are various steps prior to a bill getting to the floor of the legislature. If it appears that this bill will get a vote we will need every charter school parent to actively oppose the bill. At this point superintendent Ricci is attending town council meetings to get resolutions passed in support. On Feb. 25th he will be discussing the bill with the Charlestown Town Council. I have asked parents who live in Charlestown to attend. The director of the League of Charter Schools will attend to represent charters. The League also employs Advocacy Solutions, a public relations agency, and their director will also attend.

8. The Rhode Island Public Charter School Consortium will be held on Tuesday, March 12. It will be held at the Warwick Campus of CCRI from 3:30-6:45 PM. There will be fifty minute sessions on various topics. We will be facilitating a session on "Creating Positive School Climate". Register at : <http://richarterconference2013.eventbrite.com>

The League of Charter Schools has a new website: www.richarterschools.com

Policy: vote on policy development guidance and admissions policy.

MG Motions to accept The Compass School Admissions Policy as presented

CB seconds

In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Carries

MC motions to accept The Compass School Council Policy Development Guidance as reviewed by our attorney and revised.

EA seconds

Clarification: Council discussed that the policy only makes clear our current procedure in terms of introducing the consideration of new or revised policy. The council president determines action items in a given council meeting because he/she makes and distributes the agendas. If someone wants to place an item on a council agenda, they need to get a request to the council president. As a control, if something is not being placed on the agenda without good reason, any council member can make a motion to consider a topic as an agenda item for a future meeting during community comment time.

In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Carries

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Announcements

AZ distributed information on the Rhode Island Public Charter School Consortium.

AZ discussed 2012 NECAP results.

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EA quickly reviews what was learned at the TANGO succession planning conference attended by she and Allen last week. Kaleena is creating a form with important institutional information so we have it all in one place.

EA announces that on next month's council meeting an agenda item will be a discussion on our progress with council goals – council members should report new progress before then if possible.

EA adjourns the meeting at 7:50pm