

Approved

January 29, 2014
The Compass School Council
The Compass School
537 Old North Road
Kingston, RI

AGENDA

Call to order – Elizabeth Allen, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Roll Call of Members Present: Elizabeth Allen (EA), Cyrus Beasley (CB), Heidi Vasquez (HV) Hilary Downes-Fortune (HD), Michelle Clifford (MC) & Charlie Weygand (CW) Marisa Gallagher (MG) and Rick Rhodes (RR)

Absent: Dina Mandeville (DM)

Also present: Michael Obel-Omia, Interim Director; Kaleena Harrington, Business Manager

Approval of minutes

RR Motions to approve the regular session and executive session minutes from December 18, 2013.

HV Seconds

In favor: 8 *Opposed:* *Abstain: 0*

Motion Passes

Committee Reports (Consent Agenda)

RR Motions to accept the consent agenda

CW Seconds

In favor: 8 *Opposed: 0* *Abstain: 0*

Motion Passes

Co-Op

- There was a meeting 1/16/14 at the Charlestown Breachway Grille.
- The yearly Ice Skating at Boss Arena for the February break is being considered
- The Eco-Fair was discussed.
 - Julia Beasley will be securing food vendors and running the Compass Grille
 - Drew Virbila will be organizing the volunteers for the event.
 - Christine Skaggs will be looking for another parent to help with the community vendors.
 - Kristin Kardos will be in charge of the entertainment. The band, Joe's Backyard Band, has been booked already.
 - The Explorers will be in charge of Arts and Crafts, the Adventurers will be in charge of the Plant Sale, the Discoverers will be in charge of the Silent Auction/Basket Raffle, the Investigators will be in charge of the Compass Grille, and the Navigators will be in charge of the signage.

Approved

- The room parents from each step will be asked to help with communicating with and organizing volunteers.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 2/13/14 with the location TBD.

Development/Treasurers

1. Met with auditor. Reviewed Audit report and statements. All is in order for year ended 6/30/13.
2. Bank statements look to be in order.
3. Standard Financial Statements requested from Business Manager and should now be reviewed monthly during council meetings.

Site Maintenance

1. Frozen pipes in farmhouse fixed, replaced with PEX and insulated to avoid repeat.
2. Recommend sump hole near basement door to avoid any future water issues.
3. Electrician called to check out main electrical panel in farmhouse.

Learning – No report submitted.

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Chet Butler, parent, asked questions about the process for selecting members of the search committee.

MC also said she had questions about search committee selection process and EA assured her it would be discussed presently, under the heading of Director Search Progress Update.

Director's report

Director's Report, 22 January 2014

“Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear Friends,

With snow falling rapidly outside my window (I suspect a Snow Day tomorrow), I take this time to update you on the life of Compass School. In spite of the inclement weather, which postponed our second day back from Winter Break, a great deal of good work has been occurring here at School. On the first day back, 2 January, the Investigators traveled to Providence to spend a full day at the Rhode Island School of Design, looking at and interacting with the College's impressive collection. Before the Winter Break, a number of classes, including the Explorers and the Discoverers, held successful project shares on the topic of self and the great migration west respectively. The variety of presentations in both classes inspired colleagues and parents alike. The Adventurers, under a blizzard of paper snow, celebrated the close of the year before the Break with a celebration of the Winter Solstice. The Navigators worked on biographies near the close of the term before Winter Break as well as PowerPoint presentations in science and social studies. Finally, the Faculty and Staff congregated at 1149 in East Greenwich to bond and enjoy one another's company.

Approved

The return to School in January brought the School's first of two Open Houses, which was well attended. A newly designed PowerPoint highlighted the School's commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility. We continue to be keenly interested in the safety of the students, so we have quotations from locksmiths and will ask for the Council's approval concerning electronic locks on the main doors. In addition, as we plan for next year's budget, we are working on Faculty and Staff salaries.

Yesterday, we remembered the heroic life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who spent his time creating the beloved community and sacrificed his life fighting for what he believed. His words above concerning love rang true with me during the Open House presentation, as we shared the School with interested families. Here at Compass, we seek to release our students well prepared for the world that they will inhabit and inherit, to live in harmony with one another and our various communities, and to illuminate the path for our students. Dr. King's words, then, live with us daily.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Obel-Omia

Director search progress update (RR, CW)

HV Motions to give approval to the seven member search committee and authorize them to screen applications, conduct interviews, and create a recommendation list for Council.

MG Seconds.

Discussion focused on the process for appointing search committee members. The search committee was formed and co-chairs CW and RR appointed by council at the November 20th meeting. CW and RR reviewed bylaws, charted out the process, and CW reported the intention to include two teachers and two parents on the search committee at the December 18th meeting. He also announced that an email would go out soliciting membership for that committee at the December 18th meeting. On January 15th, EA sent an emails to staff and families listserves, soliciting interested parties, announcing the first meeting date of January 21st, and stating the selection criteria for parents: "members will be selected based on demonstrated ability to work in committee, and preference will be given to those who have served previously on one of the council's standing committees." Based on that criteria, parents were selected. Only two full-time teachers stepped forward to be on the committee, and one full-time teacher/parent was selected as the 'at large' member because she represent both parent and teacher contingencies and has "lived through" a previous Director search at Compass. A handful of parents or teacher/parents were not selected because only five positions on the committee were open.

A survey has been sent to staff to ask their opinion about desirable and undesirable characteristics of a potential candidate. Council will have access to applicant information and will be present for interviews of finalists. In addition, it is intended that finalists will meet with the community "town hall style" to acquire community feedback.

It was discussed that our special education director should be contacted personally to gain her insights, as she is a certified administrator and has longstanding knowledge of the Compass community. CW and RR will contact her to ask her to be a special advisor to the committee.

Approved

Vote on the motion to give approval to the seven member search committee and authorize them to screen applicants, conduct interviews, and create a recommendation list for Council.

CW and RR recuse themselves, as heads of the committee.

In favor: 5 Opposed: 1 (MC) Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Business manager: status report
KH reviewed the 2012-2013 Draft Budget.

Council discussed the actual and forecasted budget.

CB Moved to approve the amended fiscal year 2012-2013 Budget
HD Seconds.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Maternity leave coverage and arrangements, business manager, teachers

1. MC motions to allow PE teacher to extend her maternity leave until Tuesday April 1, 2014.
MG Seconds.

Council discussed the coverage for the maternity leave, and responsibility for health care benefits during maternity leave.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

2. HV motions to permit the business manager to work from home for 2 weeks following her 4 week maternity leave.
MC Seconds.

It was discussed that working from home is not typically permitted, and would not work for most other positions at Compass. However, this will be for a short, circumscribed time period, and Kaleena will be available by phone and able to come in briefly if necessary to ensure her responsibilities are taken care of during that time.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

3. MC motions to approve the Business Manager work 3 days during the week and two weekend days (M-W and S&S) until the last day of the 2013-2014 school year. We grant this provided that work is being completed.
MG Seconds.

It was discussed that this flex time schedule would be on a trial basis, and that if the school is in transition between directors during this time, it may not work out to have the business manager unavailable some days of the week.

Approved

EA offers a friendly amendment to allow the flex time on a trial basis until such time as the Director and the Treasurer are in agreement that the arrangement is not working out. MC accepts the friendly amendment.

Vote on original motion with friendly amendment included.

In favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1 (HV)

Motion Passes

Requests from community for agenda items and comments

Diane Barzagli, school nurse, mentioned that she feels we can do better with utilities if we better weather-proof the farmhouse and add a second door at the middle entrance.

KH said a door with a window is being made for the farmhouse entrance.

Executive Session

CW motions to move into executive session per RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) business manager evaluation and executive session per RIGL 42-46-5(3) matters of school security.

RR Seconds.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes.

Enter Executive Session at 8:05 PM

Enter back into Open Session at 8:40 PM

MC Motions to seal the minutes from executive session.

HD Seconds.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes.

Report out of votes taken in executive session:

CW Motions to move the matters of school security to a future meeting.

MG Seconds.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Passes.

Announcements

Next meeting will be as regularly scheduled, second Wednesday of the month, 2/12.

HV asked about when we will discuss our goals. They are discussed every other meeting, so next month that will be on the agenda.

Meeting adjourns at 8:47 PM