

Fireweed Academy

Academic Policy Committee Approved Minutes

August 5, 2020 Via ZOOM

**Present:** Bob Shavelson, Sean Campbell, Kim Fine, Crisi Matthews, Julie Engebretsen:

**Guests:** Justine Weitzman, Crisi Kearn, Janet Bowen, FWA Secretary, Todd Hindman, FWA Principal, Mo Wilkinson, FWA teacher, Dalena McKay, Sarah Roberts, FWA parent

**Public Comments:**

Kim Fine officially resigned from the APC and would like to continue working with the APC on a committee level, supporting school initiatives, OPUS and outdoor learning spaces.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion: Bob Shavelson motioned to approve the August 6, 2020 agenda, Crisi Matthews approved. Motion passed**

**Admin report:**

**Smart Start** update from the district: Masks will be required for all staff and grades 3-12 when unable to remain 6 feet apart. K-2 teachers will have flexibility when it will be appropriate for the students to wear masks.

**Staffing:** There are three staff member who are requesting to telework: one certified and two classified. Todd will be talking to HR regarding these requests.

**FY21 Enrollment:**

FY21 Projected Enrollment: 117                      Current Pre-Enrollment: ~101

Enrollment: K ( ), 1<sup>st</sup> ( ), 2<sup>nd</sup> ( ), 3<sup>rd</sup> ( ), 4<sup>th</sup> ( ), 5<sup>th</sup> ( ), 6<sup>th</sup> ( )

K-6 ( ), K-2 ( ), 3-6 ( )

**Preliminary Parent Survey Numbers:**

	School	Remote	Homeschoo 1	Voice Mail / Undecided
K	4	4	0	6
1st	8 or 10	2 or 4	2	2
2nd	6	6	0	4
LFW	18 or 20	12 or 14	2	12
3rd	3	6	0	2
4th	7	4	4	2
5th	4	3	5	2
6th	2	7 or 8	1 or 2	4
BFW	16	20 or 21	10 or 11	10

Total s	34 or 36	32 or 35	12 or 13	22
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Justine asked if it was required that each school offer all options, Todd said the answer is yes.

Survey feedback:

Bob: Main message is parents are looking for predictability and more robust and accessible curriculum.

Kim: Some kindergarten parents are not only new to Fireweed but also new to school in general. Many families are concerned with safety (some have newborns in their homes) and remote. Many feel 5 full days is too much. The personal phone call was good because they needed to hear the difference between remote with Fireweed supported by a teacher vs homeschooling.

Sam: Mixed results for Face to face/remote. Concern is safety; many have high-risk people in their homes.

Mo: Split with face-to-face and remote. Main concern is safety. Parents want to know what it will look like.

Todd: Stephanie called the 6<sup>th</sup> grade families and the result is largely unknown. They are considering options. One will home school for sure (came to us from homeschool), two will likely remote and thought it worked well last spring and one SPED family thought remote was better for their student. Todd called 5<sup>th</sup> grade families and spoke to 6 or 7 families. They want in school education and most thought remote in the spring went well. Todd encouraged them to submit feedback on improvements

**Resource Teacher Hiring:** Shannon Riley is our new Resource teacher for 2020-2021. She worked with Fireweed three years ago as our ½ time Interventionist.

**Kindergarten Position Hiring:** Erin Pollock is our new Kindergarten teacher for 2020-2021.

**Strategic Plan Development:** Susie Admunhson will be available to facilitate the drafting of a new five year Strategic Plan, when we are ready to begin that process.

**AASB:** The Alaska Association of School Boards is working with Kenai Peninsula charter schools to offer their board development training for APCs. No date has been set; initial discussions are underway.

I contacted AASB last month in regards to the potential financial impact COVID-19 could have on the Charter School. I heard back from Lon Garrison confirming receipt of my message. I have sent a follow email to him.

**KPBSD:** KPBSD is pursuing “hold-harmless” funding for 2020-2021 from the legislature. There is a rumor out that is happening, but that is NOT true at this point.

**Leadership Academy:** Sam, Mo, Katherine, Shannon and I will begin attending KPBSD’s Leadership Academy today at 9 AM and continuing tomorrow.

Breakout Sessions include:

- Risk Level Determination - Dave Jones
- Health and Safety Protocols - Iris Wertz
- Facilities Protocols - Kevin Lyons
- School Schedules - Clayton Holland
- SPED Integration - Amy Hagan
- Curriculum - Melissa Linton
- Redesigning Learning - Amanda Adams
- Technology - Eric Soderquist
- Communication - Pegge Erkeneff
- Website / Online Presence - Amanda Adams
- Designing PD Days - Melissa Linton

Whole Group sessions include:

Staffing - Nate Crabtree  
Instruction Redesign - Christine Ermold  
Technology Distribution - Eric Soderquist

Designing PD Days - Christine Ermold  
Communication Norms - Pegge Erkeneff  
School Websites Updates - Amanda Adams

**Principals Leadership Plans:** Todd will attend the Leadership Academy for the next two days and will be collaborating with staff from PBE and WHE, this will help clarify his goals. If he feels his goals need to be altered, he will call a Leadership committee meeting to reassess.

Justine Weitzman is interested in joining the APC, as is Sam Kirby at Staff person at LFW.

Todd and Kim are looking at possible outdoor activities including bolstering up the fire pit, Ladybug Forrest, lean-tos on the flat areas, small high tunnels, woodshed, etc. at Little Fireweed. At Big Fireweed they are looking at the trail to the north of the building, possible learning lean to's up there. Bob asked about a budget for this, that is unknown, he feels there could be stimulus money.

**Committee reports:**

School surveys-done.

Budget-Finance-funding is unknown at this time. KPBSD is pursuing Hold Harmless funding for 20/21. There is a rumor that this is a done deal and it is not.

Facility-Lease extension is done with Dave Ritchie.

School day design-ongoing.

Leadership committee- will clarify principal goals if needed. Remote learning design will continue to be worked on. Work packets with structure will be created rather than purchased.

Per Crisi Co-ops are popping up by different groups of people looking for solutions to the inconsistency of moving in and out of face time/remote learning.

**Final comments:**

Julie: She has been working with Sarah Roberts on a draft safety plan and will share that with the LFW staff tomorrow.

Bob: We need to do all we can to help families and secure the future of Fireweed Academy

Kim: Teachers are not in a position to create a new homeschool but we can create a quality, online remote learning program that is not screen based. Families will still be part of Fireweed Academy and have FWA teacher support.

Crisi: Write the House and Senate, we need support beyond unemployment assistances. We need a master plan to support our school campuses in two weeks, including insurance, school safety, cleanliness, Plexiglas, masks, and additional support money.

Next Steps: Parent voting to fill empty APC seats.

Todd will send a communication to parent by the end of the week. Staff will meet by the end of week will hopefully have designed plans by the end of next week. We will post the outdoor concepts on the website in relation to what school will like by the 14<sup>th</sup> of August.

A zoom work session is tentatively planned for August 19<sup>th</sup> should there be a need.

The next official APC meeting will be in September, TBA

Submitted by Janet Bowen