

Fireweed Academy

Academic Policy Committee Approved Minutes

October 5, 2020 Via ZOOM

Present: Megan Frost, Justine Weitzman, Sam Kirby, Bob Shavelson, Julie Engebretsen

Staff: Todd Hindman, FWA Principal, Janet Bowen, FWA Secretary, Erin Pollock, FWA Kindergarten Teacher

Guests: Nara Rosser

Public Comments: Erin introduced the Drive In Theater Fundraiser for LFA, \$\$ to go into student account fund for field trips with 25% donated to the local theater. It would be good publicity and raise money for the kid's activities. We would need help from APC to build a screen. The movies would use a radio broadcaster. Different grades could host the movie, prepare and sell concessions. Erin and Julie will talk this over and work out the details, it will be on next months' agenda.

Approval of Agenda: Motion: Sam motioned to approve the Oct 5, 2020 agenda, Bob seconded. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes: Sam moved to approve the Sept 2020 minutes, seconded by Justine and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Admin report: 10/05/20

FY21 Enrollment:

FY21 Projected Enrollment: 117 Current Enrollment: 87

Enrollment: K (12) r(0), 1st (11) r(1), 2nd (11) r(5), 3rd (4) r(4), 4th (11) r(4)), 5th (7) r(6), 6th (6) r(5)
K-6 (87), K-2 (40), 3-6 (47)

Picture Day: Picture day went well, several remote students from each campus participated. I am planning on getting photos for families and hopefully grade level composites for the kids.

Field Trips: In another effort to try to make this school year as normal as possible, the staff have been providing field trip opportunities tied to our Community theme. Both students and staff have enjoyed getting out into our community.

Title 1 School: Fireweed Academy now qualifies as a Title 1 school. Title 1 will provide additional resources and some funding focusing on early childhood literacy.

Strategic Plan Development: I followed up with Susie Admuson. She is available to facilitate our strategic plan update any Friday/Saturday in November. She would like to have everyone participate via Zoom. She is wanting to get an estimate of the number of people who will be participating to prepare an agenda.

Charter School Coalition: I have e-mailed charter school principals from around the state in regard to funding for charter schools with drops in enrollment. I provided each of them with a copy of the resolution developed by the APC and the legislative letter as well. I spoke with Mindy Lobaugh who is in the finance department of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. We reviewed the hold harmless statute. While she indicated that districts are not mandated to provide the hold harmless funding to charter schools, she believe school districts would pass them on. This would affect Fireweed Academy and Kaleidoscope. I believe we should pursue amendments to the statute that would guarantee that charter schools would be provided their share of state funding.

In-School / Remote Learners: We are continuing to see some remote/homeschool learners transitioning to in-school learning. We expect two more remote students by the end of the month.

Tenured Staff / Principal Evaluations: This year, tenured staff and principals will not have formal evaluations.

Remote Learners / Field trips: When our initial field trips were announced, I received a few e-mails from parents regarding the possibility of remote students participating in field trips. After discussions with staff members we decided to not have remote students attend to follow mitigation plans. Follow up discussions with staff and phone discussion with parents led to what we think will be a solution, a remote cohort or cohorts that could participate in field trips that the in-school students have at a different time.

Projected Enrollment FY 22: My projected enrollment for FY22 was due on October 1st. I projected our enrollment to be 112 students if there are no complications due to COVID-19.

Questions about classroom safety came up as students start to trickle back into the classrooms. Currently we have 15 and 13 in the BFW classrooms. We will maximize social distancing as we can and when that is not possible, students will wear masks.

Todd was asked to increase the communications to families about being Covid safe outside of school, focusing on parent/community responsibilities. A more interpersonal... ‘we are all in this together’ theme. Julie will forward City of Homer communications as well.

Strategic Planning: This will be help via Zoom on a Friday/Saturday in November of our choosing. We will send out a doodle poll for staff and APC members to help decide what weekend.

APC membership: 18 folks voted in the Monkey Survey voting process APC Parent Reps. Bob Shavelson and Emily Springer received 18 votes each.

Motion: Sam moved to seat Emily Springer and Bob Shavelson as Parent reps, Megan seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Julie will talk with APC guest Nara Rosser about roles and responsibilities as a Student rep.

Committee Membership Discussion is postponed to the November 2020 meeting. Julie joined the Bylaws committee. Janet asked that all members review their contact information as this goes out to all the FWA families.

Funding resolution:

Motion: Bob moved to adopt the funding resolution, Justine seconded. Todd read the resolution and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Extra Work Days:

Motion: Bob moved to approve 2 extra work days provide to staff in August, Julie seconded and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Principal Leadership Plan.

Todd wanted to check in to confirm that approved leadership plan was still appropriate and attainable.

1. Attend two leadership workshops focusing on leadership skills.
2. Vertical alignment of curriculum between Little and Big Fireweed

Discussion: Both goals should proceed. Traveling to trainings is not possible due to Covid19. Remote trainings will be helpful. Stephanie suggested that Todd also work with Susie Amundson for leadership training.

Board Report: Patti Truesdell did not attend tonight's meeting. Julie noted there was a KPBSD board meeting this evening as well, Patti was probably busy with that. Julie will call her and connect with the charter school committee.

Submitted by Janet Bowen

Next APC meeting is November 2, 2020 4pm via Zoom