

**Fireweed Academy
Academic Policy Committee
(3/6/2025) Meeting Minutes**

WE BELIEVE...

- Students learn best through hands-on experiences & reflecting on those experiences.
- Music, arts & creative self-expression nurture strong learners and responsible citizens.
- In nurturing a compassionate learning community.
- The natural & cultural community of Kachemak Bay is fertile ground for learning.
- In building skills for engaged & responsible citizenship.
- Mindful use of technology is critical for 21st century learners.
- Engaged families make a better school and a better future for our kids.

Attendance:

Rachael Kincaid, Chair (Comm. Rep. 05-25) - <i>present</i>	Bob Shavelson (Comm. Rep. 05-25) - <i>present</i>
Tessa Sullivan, Vice Chair (Parent Rep. 05-25) - <i>present</i>	Rebecca King (Staff Rep. 05-25) - <i>present on zoom</i>
Brianna Lee, Secretary (Parent Rep. 05-26) - <i>present</i>	Elizabeth Maver (Staff Rep. 05-25) - <i>present/zoom</i>
Irene Saxton, Treasurer (Student Rep. 05-25) - <i>absent</i>	Ash-Lee Waddell (05-26) - <i>present</i>
Cheryl Tolman (05-26) - <i>present</i>	

CALL TO ORDER:

Staff & Guests: none

Public Comments: none

Rachael announced that she was resigning as Chair; Tessa will move from Vice Chair to Chair and take over the position. The April APC meeting will include elections of officers for the next school year.

Approval of Agenda: Rachael moved to approve the agenda as amended; Ash-Lee seconded

Approval of Minutes: Ash-Lee moved to approve; Rachael seconded

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy Manual: Bob spoke on the policy manual's history and reiterated that the APC's job is to change policy. Cheryl emphasized the importance of documenting the history of any changes that have been made within FWA policies. Tessa emphasized bolstering community involvement and engagement. **Action Item: At the April meeting, the APC will review and approve both the Parent-Student Handbook draft and the Administrative Policy Manual draft.** *We still need to work on a Staff Manual and a Financial Management Manual. These four critical documents will be required for the upcoming Charter renewal.

One Campus Dream: Bob spoke. The committee is currently working on the Site Plan and Development Plan, both in progress, and needs more feedback on this structure (what will the

school look like? OCDC spoke with the Homer Foundation and HOST (Homer Out of School Time). We should ask for a needs assessment. We struggle with public outreach. We need a FWA public meeting to gauge what the community wants. FOFA will ultimately need to bring this to the assembly. Why is this a better option than moving into an empty school space? Securing land from Borough seems most important. Becky asked if Winterberry Charter might have some documents/ resources that they might be able to share with us that we could look at that may help our process

Charter Renewal: Rachael spoke on the importance of committing to some work outside of these meetings; the charter committee will schedule a meeting for a work session. Ash-Lee has worked through the application several times. It now needs to be edited and cleaned up. Kyle says we need to send it to the September Board meeting in 2026. Cheryl wondered if we had received any info from families through the “Roots” theme. Kyle said not yet, but working on another way to receive families' input on why they love FWA. The group discussed creating a survey as a way to gather more info from families and ask questions that may help guide and add input to charter renewal.

Action Item: Tessa will contact the committee to schedule a work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Admin Report: Kyle spoke on the report in the packet. Highlighted some bright spots: Kara is the new resource teacher (Congrats!) Ellis Island was a success. Took Reading Challenge (K-2) winners to the bookstore. The School Board is not closing Homer area schools. Kyle is up for the Board meeting presentation next month in Soldotna. Sharlyn has been working hard on the website; Ash-Lee suggests we add the online feedback form to the website.

Financial Report: Bob: FWA needs a uniform budget format so we can easily see changes

Friends of Fireweed: updates: May Day is on the 10th, OCDC will be at the next FOFA meeting, and Ash-Lee has created a draft FOFA website. Bob will attend next FOFA meeting to share One Campus report

Communication Plan: Bob spoke; every communication that gets sent out needs to have a goal.

Outreach: The next coffee with APC is on March 19th. Rachael and Kyle will help spread the word about charter renewal at coffee with APC and gather information from attendees.

Closing Comments: none

ADJOURN: 5:22pm

Submitted by: Brianna Lee