

Rocklin Academy Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held at 6532 Turnstone Way, Library
6:30 p.m. Monday, December 7, 2009

RA Board Members and Staff Present:

Voting Members: Chairwoman Wendy Boyd, Executive Director David Patterson, Jeff Nicolaysen, Stephen Siler, Roy Beckhorn, and Melissa Garrido.

Voting Members Absent: Jarrett Black had a death in the family.

Non-Voting Members: Jillayne Antoon, Amy Alford and Melissa Whitney. (Steven Carney was out of town on school business.)

Staff: Melissa Tritle and Mary Decker.

Visitors: Diana Higashi and Michelle Polen.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

II. Hearing of Visitors:

Diana Higashi: Overall she has heard good feedback regarding the Standards Based Report Cards. There was some confusion over the use of the “1”. She would also like to know if RA has ever considered the use of a modified uniform for students. Executive Director Patterson responded that they could possibly add a question about this to the survey. Jeff Nicolaysen suggested that due to the budget, it might be a tough time economically to ask parents to invest in uniforms.

III. Board Member Comments

Roy Beckhorn: He attended the World Café and thought it was a good exercise. Identifying parents and their skills and resources seemed especially beneficial to the volunteer process.

Jeff Nicolaysen: Attended the Western Sierra Winter Festival and enjoyed it.

Jillayne Antoon: Received good feedback on the Standards Based Report Card.

Melissa Garrido: Attended the World Café and thought that it was beneficial. She also attended the WS Winter Festival and thought they had an amazing start to the music program.

Wendy Boyd: The Winter Festival was a wonderful program and that the World Café was a great process to observe and go through. There is a staff and faculty party in January and she

proposed the board provide part of the meal or another element of the festivity to honor them and help them enjoy the holidays. The board was in consensus.

RA is hosting a breakfast at the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce, December 10, at 7:30 a.m. at the Whitney Oaks Golf Course. She invited the board members to attend and to contact Nicole Alldredge for reservations.

Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Update – Turnstone, Meyers, Western Sierra**
- b. Minutes of November 2, 2009**
- c. Expenditures**
- d. SELPA Application Approval**

The consent agenda was approved. Nicolaysen/Beckhorn 6-0

IV. Administration Report

- a. Executive Director – Dr. Patterson**
- b. Director of Education/Western Sierra Principal – Steven Carney**
- c. Director of Development – Donja Garvey**
- d. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – Melissa Reese**
- e. Committee Updates**
 - i. Board Development Committee – Sean Jones**
 - ii. Strategic Planning Committee – Roy Beckhorn**
 - iii. Western Sierra Facility Planning Committee – Jeff Nicolaysen**

Verbal Updates: Sean Jones reported that there has been an extension of time for his committee to complete its work to January. Jeff Nicolaysen reported that the Facility Planning Committee has met a few times and is currently working on an outline of possible options. He is still seeking more committee members, particularly ones who specialize in real estate. Chairwoman Boyd expressed her appreciation to the committee chairs.

VI. PSP Report

Meyers: No report.

Turnstone: The Sing-a-Long is the next activity being worked on. Spirit wear t-shirts are available and board members are welcome to order. A few parents have expressed an interest in having a voting process initiated in PSP wherein all parents could vote on current school issues.

Western Sierra: No report.

VII. Information/Action

- a. State Budget Update**

Executive Director Patterson referred to the articles he included in the board packet and will bring in other stakeholders (administration, teachers) in December to discuss options as to how the RA organization will respond. He is confident Rocklin Academy will get through the difficult budget situation, but there will be difficult decisions to be made. Updates will continue to be presented to the parents through the Wednesday Weekly.

b. First Interim Budget Report

By law, (Education Code 47604.33) the first interim must be adopted and approved by December 15th. Administration has reviewed revenues and expenditures and made a wide range of adjustments. The interim report reflects the revenue received to date from the state as well as the expenses incurred to date. Because of strong fiscal management, RA is doing better than most schools. Ms. Reese reviewed the budget reports for all three campuses with the board and answered questions. The lack of funding and cash flow implications are especially acute for new schools. RA is managing both aspects of that challenge. The budget was passed. Nicolaysen/Garrido 6-0.

c. Revised Budgets (This item was addressed and approved before Item VII(b).)

Budgets for all three campuses were presented to the board. The Board of Directors has previously approved the utilization of \$193,000 in funds from reserves. After utilization of these reserve funds, management is expecting a reserve balance of approximately \$1,415,000. The Board has adopted a policy of maintaining a 25% economic uncertainty reserve and the amount of the reserve funds is projected to be \$1,518,000 at the close of the 2009-10 year. The charter school funding rates from the budget adopted July 28, 2009 reflect a decrease per student of \$276 in Grades K-3, a decrease per student of \$313 in grades 4-6, a decrease per student of \$287 in grades 7-8, and a decrease per student of \$291 in grades 9-12. Ms. Reese guided the board through specific calculations and a review of budgets for all three campuses. The revised budgets were approved. Nicolaysen/Beckhorn 6-0

d. Adoption of School Wide Goals Developed from Perception Data of Teachers, Parents/Student Surveys 2008-2009 Workshop

The 2008/09 goals were discussed and reviewed. Two new goals were set:

- By Spring 2010, 85% of Rocklin Academy parents and students will respond positively to survey questions regarding communication about standards, standards-based report cards, and progress toward standards.
- By Spring 2010, 80% of Rocklin Academy staff and students will respond positively to survey questions regarding use and support of technology integration.

The goals were approved. Siler/Garrido 6-0

e. RA Annual Performance Report for RUSD

Rocklin Academy has provided an annual report to RUSD for eight years. This report lays out the activities of the past year and offers a snapshot of student performance, the Academy's

educational program and other key aspects of the school and its operations. Under the charter, RUSD has an obligation to review the reports and notify Rocklin Academy within 60 days if it finds that there are any deficiencies, or if the charter(s) are not making progress toward the goals in the charter(s). Executive Director Patterson was happy to report that the district has never raised any concerns. It was also noted that there will be further additions and corrections regarding the personnel, the auditing information and Meyers Street academic performance sections of the report. The report was approved for submission upon approval of the final document by Board Chairwoman Boyd. Patterson/Beckhorn 6-0

f. Update on Renewal of RA Turnstone

The renewal charter for Rocklin Academy was submitted on November 3, 2009. Upon submission the law requires RUSD to hold a public hearing within 30 days and another 30 days later to take action on request for renewal. A request for more information to be submitted to RUSD was received on November 16, 2009. RUSD has not scheduled the hearing for their December 2 board meeting. Letters of support for the renewal of Rocklin Academy have been received from Congressman Tom McClintock, State Senator Aanestad, and State Assembly member Ted Gaines. Rocklin Academy is pressing for the hearing to occur and will continue to meet with RUSD regarding the renewal and to answer any questions. Preparations are being made to submit the request to the Placer County Board of Education, if needed.

g. VAPA/Kindergarten Dispute

Rocklin Academy is in the process of scheduling time to meet with RUSD regarding this matter. If this process does not bring clarification, mediation will be sought.

Meeting was adjourned to closed session at 8:24

Closed session was called to order at 8:37

Board returned to open session at 9:50

Action Taken in Closed Session:

Chairwoman Boyd reported that the board authorized the Executive Director to pursue a multipoint settlement with RUSD that included the original five points and the VAPA/Kindergarten issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Alldredge