



**Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, March 14th, 2009

Final Version. Amended. Approved 20 March 09

The meeting was called to order shortly after noon. APC members attending the meeting were:

Jo Sanders
Joe Weinberger
Jeff Ullom
Petra Nickerson
Liz Crafford
Claudia Bittlingmaier
Debra Schwicht
Crystal Wrabetz

Other attendees at the meeting were:

Connie Bensler
Brett and Patty Wilbanks
Angelika West
Julie Pierce
Greg Gould

Liz Crafford was appointed temporary secretary for the meeting.

We jumped right to the Building Committee because Brett Wilbanks needed to leave.

Building Committee

The APC members of the Building Committee are Jeff Ullom and Joe Weinberger. The at large member is Brett Wilbanks. At issue is what to do when our current building lease expires at the end of next school year, 2010. Brett presented a summary of the space and cost issues with our current building as he has compiled them. He thinks there is a discrepancy between the square footage that our landlord Zelner reports and the correct square footage, thus making our actual cost per square foot higher than it appears in our lease. He noted that we are being charged for non utilized space, specifically, the basement. Petra confirmed that the 24,791 sq ft. number does include the basement.

Petra asked Connie about the dates of the Charter renewal, and she responded that it would be in March of '10. We must negotiate a lease renewal on our current building by January '10 which would present a problem if we do not have the Charter renewed yet.

Jo Sanders commented that we will likely outgrow our current building, even with renovations, in two or three years if growth continues as planned.

Connie B. commented that a grocery store on 9th and Gambell was being marketed as a possible school site. No one was enthusiastic about the location of that building. She also commented that the idea of a Charter School owning their own building has not generally been well accepted with the Superintendent.

Brett discussed a possible alternative property with 35,000 square feet that includes a gym and many other possible features including room to grow that, by his accounting, would cost less than our current space if purchased. It currently has room for 15 500 sq foot classrooms and meets the new municipal code for school spaces.

Joe Weinberger discussed various pros and cons of our current building.

Everyone discussed various options of the proposed new property which has the potential to expand to 20 classrooms ultimately.

The discussion moved to financing issues and possibilities for getting grants or loans to purchase a building.

Liz argued that we should separate the issue of a new building or current lease renewal from the issues of financing whatever space we end up with after the current lease ends.

Patty W argued that they need to tie the research for funding to a particular site if there is any chance of getting a loan or grant for a property.

The building committee will try to meet ASAP with Connie and the School District to discuss the feasibility of purchase options for a building.

Petra commented that at least one of the ASD School Board members running for reelection is very interested in finding buildings for Charter schools, which may be helpful for us.

Brett requested that we tell him what the contingencies are if he were to make an offer on a building.

Greg suggested that the APC take a field trip to the building and walk through as a group before making any further decisions.

Debra cautioned that we present any discussion of a new school building in a positive light so as to not unduly concern current and future parents of the school.

Connie reiterated that she would talk to the facilities people with the school district and let us know what they said.

Approval of Minutes

Joe W moved that the minutes for the February APC meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Jeff U. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

District Liason's Report

Connie commented that the School Board is in the process of rewriting the Title 21 regulations and Debbie Ossiander is on that committee. She also commented that the muni DOT seems to have concerns with transportation issues at our school but details of the issues were not provided. She asked if we offer PE. Crystal answered, yes, for one hour per student per week. Crystal also confirmed that we voted last month to have the delayed start of First Grade this year to assist in student evaluation. With regard to the Early Release discussion (see below) Connie commented that students must be in class for 5 hours for it to count as a day. The requirement is 4.5 hours for grades K-2 and 5 hours for grades 3-6. Petra asked Connie about the incremental PERS/TERS line item increases. Connie reassured her that she can ignore those numbers. Connie asked if we are doing summer camp. Yes we are, for two weeks, right after school gets out. She mentioned that Aquarian may want to use our building during part of the summer. Crystal is checking to make sure that the schedule works for summer camp so that we avoid the need for a Type B administrator during camp session. Another session of camp will be held for 2 weeks right before school starts.

Principal's Report

Crystal announced that Jo Sanders will be recognized with a major award from the German Government, presented by the Honorary German Consul at the ASD School Board Meeting next Monday evening. A reception will also be held in her honor that day at school, time TBD.

The Drama Club is performing Die Schildburger on March 19th at 1:45 PM for the student body.

The Lottery numbers are looking really good for next Friday's lottery drawing. The numbers so far are K-102, 1-5, 2-1, 3-4, 4-1, 5-1, 6-2, 7-0, 8-1

No Verein Report

Standing Committee Reports

Curriculum Report

Summer Camp plans

Summer camp will cost \$350 for two weeks. It will be open to incoming kindergarteners through 12 yr olds. It will run from 9-3 PM with child care provided for early drop off and late pick up for and additional fee. The first session will be right after school gets out with a theme of "Back to Nature" and the August session before school starts will have the theme "Jump into German"

and will be especially geared toward children new to the school. Lisa Cooper will be the head, and Lucie Woofter will be the assistant. Jeff asked if there would be a multi child discount or scholarships. He agreed to discuss scholarships with the Verein. Claudia agreed to contact the German Club also about scholarships. A multiple child discount of \$50 per child was discussed. Camp will be a full day only, with no half day for younger children.

Boot Camp plans

Boot Camp – a one hour class after school each day will be required for upper grade students (2-6) who will be new to the school with no German background next year. There will be no charge for this.

The fourth grade had such fun with barbarians earlier this year that it will be used as the theme for the Jugenfest later this month. This is an all day Saturday event with six mini classes. Teachers from all over the district help run it. Press coverage is needed for the event, held March 28th at Northern Lights ABC.

Marketing Committee Report

Liz reported that our competition, according to some prospective families, is Aquarian, Denali and Chugach. Crystal said that Sand Lake has agreed to advertise for us because they are booked already with a long waiting list. Greg reported that Marketing has run small ads in the paper Daily News and greater coverage on their website. Ads are currently running on the radio, rotation between three stations: KLEF at 98.1, 103.1, and AM 750 Talk radio. We've also put an ad in the Elmendorf newspaper. Theater advertising is now running at the Fireweed and Totem theaters.

Finance Committee

Jeff noted that the issues with the Landlord over the Changepoint property were resolved by splitting the remaining charges 50-50 with the landlord. Petra reported that she has rolled everything possible into last year's money.

Old Business

Healthy Food Poll

Petra moved to table the Healthy Food Poll and changes to the nutrition policy. Claudia seconded it. The vote was unanimous. It was agreed to send out the informative booklet on nutrition compiled by Ann Weese and Antje Carlson to all students this semester. Liz agreed to contact Ann or Antje and get the master copy for final editing and release.

New Business

Immersion Conference in Anchorage

The German government has asked Rilke Schule to host an immersion conference in the fall during the last week of September. The German government is paying for the conference. The attendees will visit classes on Friday and the conference will be at school on Saturday and Sunday. It may include upwards of 60 people, but probably less. Teachers from various schools will be presenters at the meeting.

Petra asked when we need to send in for the next PASCH grant. Crystal agreed to check on this.

Tentative School Day Schedule Change for next year

Jo discussed the idea of a proposed schedule change for the Rilke Schule School Day for next year. It would involve making the school day 15 minutes longer Monday through Thursday (from 8:15 to 3 PM) and then school would be released early on Friday at 1:15 PM. The purpose for this change is twofold. First, it provides an opportunity for teachers to plan together, both between the English and German teachers within a grade, and among the German teachers and the English teachers between grades. Second, it provides a weekly opportunity to present “optional intensive” programs for the students that will be run by Teaching Assistants or interested parents or volunteers from our Rilke Community on Fridays from 1:15 to 3 PM. The board discussed the potential benefits of an optional program for the students including learning in a multiage setting, and flexibility for families who wish to leave early on Fridays for long weekends. A variety of classes could be offered ranging from arts, crafts, cultural, science, nature, athletic, or language, depending on the interests of students and teaching volunteers or Teaching Assistants. A nominal supply fee would be charged to cover expenses.

Liz made a motion to adopt a tentative schedule change for next year to allow for teacher planning and optional intensives for students. The new schedule would be as follows M-Th 8:15 to 3 PM, Friday 8:15 – 1:15 PM, with optional Friday intensives for students from 1:15 to 3 PM. The motion was seconded by Joe W. The vote was unanimous. Crystal will confirm feasibility of the program, and Jo S will work on choosing some activity names.

Election of Interim APC Officers

Claudia moved to appoint Liz the Interim APC secretary. Joe W seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous..

Liz moved to appoint Jo S the Interim APC President. Joe W. seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Jo S moved to appoint Jeff Interim APC Vice President. Joe W. seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

New regular APC Meeting time

It was decided that the most convenient meeting time for the current board was the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. This sets the tentative dates for the APC meetings for the rest of 2009 as: April 9th, May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th.

Greg Gould described a new non profit organization called RESPOND. It is a consortium of community and non profit groups that includes schools. Membership is free. It exists to share and leverage resources having to do with emergency preparedness, security, and safety. It will offer training and workshops for staff. It is something that may work very well with the Verein. He will keep us posted on opportunities to be involved with it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM to a brief executive session.

The Executive Session topics included discussions of the Building Committee and Staffing Issues.

ACTION ITEMS

The building committee will try to meet ASAP with Connie and the School District to discuss the feasibility of purchase options for a building.

Joe W is going to try to work with Brett and the realtor to schedule a walk through of the property of interest with the whole APC.

Connie reiterated that she would talk to the facilities people with the school district and let us know what they said.

Crystal is checking with the Anchorage School district to make sure that we avoid the need for a Type B administrator during camp session.

Jeff agreed to discuss summer camp scholarships with the Verein.

Claudia agreed to contact the German Club also about summer camp scholarships.

Liz agreed to contact Ann or Antje and get the master copy of the nutrition booklet for final editing and release.

Crystal agreed to check on the due date for the next PASCH grant.

Crystal will confirm feasibility of the Friday afternoon optional intensives program

Jo Sanders will work on choosing some activity names for the Friday optional program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Crafford, APC Interim Secretary