



**Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee
FINAL Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010**

Jo Sanders, President	Joe Weinberger
Petra Nickerson, Vice President	Claudia Bittlingmaier, Teacher
Jeff Ullom, Treasurer	Debra Schwicht, Teacher
Liz Crafford, Secretary	
Frank Mächt	Crystal Wrabetz, Principal
Mary Mead, ASD Charter School Supervisor	

Other attendees at the meeting were:

Elisa Snelling	Carrie Ross
Beth Schlaubaugh	Angelika West
Steve Schaffer	Clint Lentfer
Kim Nelson	Randy Sulte

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the December meeting were amended and approved. The vote was unanimous.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A parent asked about Spirit day and whether we could make it so they can always wear jeans on Spirit days (once a month). The board did not have any objection to making clean jeans without holes or excessive decoration acceptable wear on monthly Spirit days.

There was a discussion about how the report cards are difficult to read, especially with the new district database system. Because we are using the German grading system which uses numbers 1-6 and then level grading with numbers 1-3, parents have a hard time deciphering if their children are doing ok in school. It would be nice to implement

something so it would be easier for parents to read. Frank offered to help bring solutions to this. The board discussed switching back to using the American letter grading system, which both the teachers and principal commented would be MUCH easier to implement. Crystal will check the charter to see if we can easily change back to using the English grading system.

IV REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OR PERSONS

A. Supervisor of Charter Schools

Mary has 3 other meetings tonight and was unable to attend. Crystal reported for her that there is a group of Charter School parents working on legislation for Charter Schools. She will provide us with comments from their meetings. They want to lift the cap for the number of Charter schools allowed by the State. They also want more equal amounts of local revenue shared with Charter School.

B. Principal's Report

Crystal provided an update on current student numbers and attrition of K and 1st grade over the last few years.

The Alternative School Fair is Sat. January 23rd from 10-3 pm at the school district building.

It was discussed whether or not to hold the March Kinderfest, and agreed that it would be a good idea to hold it.

The French folks would like to offer classes after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The hat, mitten, and food drive held by the student council was a success.

Our Kindergarten teacher Jessica Martin received a grant for classroom supplies. Our music teacher Kevin Downey is getting an award at one of the March ASD School Board meetings.

Alaska Peace Officers are hosting an oldies show on May 15th and are looking for sponsors.

C. Rilke Verein

Jo S. asked that if the Verein knows anyone interested in being a host family, we could use more host families for interns for this year. They should contact Angelika or Jo S. if they are interested.

There was a discussion about limitations on lottery admissions. Frank suggests we go back to Mary to learn more about how we can have input into this.

D. Building Committee

There was a workgroup meeting on Saturday. There is activity on several different fronts. The Sentry Drive building would cost us about 730k per year in rent. Our current building costs us about 625k/year.

Mr. Hans Schweiger, President of the German Club, is interested in helping us find a suitable school building.

RSI is trying to finance the down payment for the Sentry Building, and have the owner finance 25% of the building. Grants or fundraising would be required to make the Sentry Drive building a reality. There was discussion of a capital campaign. At the end of January we will know if financing for Sentry Drive is an option. If that's not an option we can decide on the next step with the landlord. [Jeff will call for a special meeting where we will go into executive session to discuss the Sentry financing options.](#)

E. Curriculum

Nothing new to report. The committee is working on curriculum information to put up on the school website.

F. Finance Committee

The budget was balanced as of 12/15/09. We are \$25,000 in the red at this point, but several things need to be adjusted for the year, and the adjusted funds will be released in January.

G. Goals Committee

Frank provided a follow up for the goals committee: He asked if it would be helpful to establish a personnel committee to help organize issues relating to how we look at staffing with respect to the budget, evaluations, and intern feedback, for example. The excellence of our school depends on how the people live the mission, and it is important for the board to be involved appropriately in that process. Crystal and Jo S commented that Connie Bensler, former Charter School supervisor had advised against forming a committee because of the confidential staff personnel issues. Petra noted that it would be good to have a committee that would take care of the Principal Evaluation and other things we need to be looking after. Frank noted that we need to provide leadership in this area. He will work on addressing these questions and comments.

H. Public Relations Committee

No Report. The Kinderfest was successful with 12 children attending.

I. Optional Intensives

There are more volunteers that step up each quarter to help run the program.

V. Old Business

Claudia brought up the discussion of 2010 Kindergarten classes, and whether we should admit 2 or 3 classes. It was agreed that we should wait until we know about the Sentry Drive building financing before we debate it because it is largely a classroom/space issue at this point in time.

The Election Committee will send a flyer home about the APC elections. Jeff will take care of this.

The Root Down hot lunch program is just one of several that are offered by different catering companies. Beth Schlabaugh is looking into more options and will report back. She thinks we could possibly qualify for some reimbursement for FDA programs but is studying the school district regulations to clarify this.

The Spring Auction is set for March 27th. Flyers and announcements will be sent home regularly.

VI. New Business

A. The March meeting date has been changed to Thursday, March 4th at 6:30 PM at school.

B. A discussion was held on how to best move a Grants Committee effort forward. It was agreed that a unified approach would be most effective. The need to prioritize what grants are most important for the future of the school is clear. Liz is meeting with a parent next week who has volunteered to head up this effort and will report back at the next meeting.

C. The board agreed that it would be worthwhile to begin working on a board packet and board planning. The packet would be the bundle of information that is given to each Board Member when they are elected, providing basic information about our roles and responsibilities. The board planning information would be an outline of the yearly decisions the board needs to discuss and the best schedule to work on them in a timely manner. Liz agreed to put together preliminary information to review at our next meeting.

Jo said thank you to everyone for goodies and the Charter!

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. The vote was unanimous.

There was no Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Crafford, APC Secretary