

Rilke Schule

Academic Policy Committee

Final Minutes

Approved as Amended, April 8th, 2010

Thursday, March 4th, 2010, 6:30 PM
Regular Meeting



I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Board Members present: Frank Macht, Liz Crafford, Jeff Ullom, Debra Schwicht, Greg Gould, Crystal Wrabetz, Steve Schaffer

Board Members Absent: Jo Weinberger, Claudia Bittlingmaier

Others attending the meeting were: Brett Wilbanks, Randy Solte, Jo Sanders, Angelika West, Scott Schillinger, Mark Ha with Jack White, Marianne Grant, Realtor, Anthony Jacobson, Heather Jacobson, Cassie Jeremias, Beth Schlabaugh, Tallee Wellman, Ali Zagorski, Denise Cotten, Cindy Norquist, Ray Oakley, Arlynda & Jerry Hermann, Kim Nelson, Terri Wood, Stephanie Campbell, Myrna Jensen.

II. Opening Comments, Chair

The chair would like people to share an experience that motivates them to be involved in the school. Having a community of people with whom to share the German experience is very important to me, and I suspect to many others as well. I'd like to help create that community. That is the basis of my commitment. I am impressed with the commitment of families who don't have German background.

III. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION: that the curriculum report be placed before the building committee report at the beginning of the agenda.

Moved by: Greg Gould

Seconded by: Liz Crafford

VOTE:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

VI. Reports

F. Curriculum

Jo Sanders reported on progress toward setting up a new Samstagsschule that she would like to call the Otto Geist Samstagsschule. It would rent space from Rilke Schule on Saturdays. If it is established as a separate entity from Rilke Schule, it will be eligible for separate funding from the German government. The Samstagsschule is not aimed at Rilke students, but rather it is for

other children in the community who are not at the school. The school would run on Saturday mornings from 9 AM to noon. In addition there would be a 1½ hr class for toddlers. If there is enough demand, we will also give adult classes. The classes will be taught by native speakers and others in the community. We will probably need 5 classrooms. Liz asked about teaching other languages in addition to German. Jo commented that this would be good to pursue after the German program is established. It could be used as a vehicle for older children to get up to speed with their German to join Rilke if they are skilled, but this is not its primary purpose. Elisa asked if it would be a two semester program or one. Jo replied that she hoped people would sign up for the whole year, but they could start a new adult class if there was enough interest in the spring. Frank asked if she would make plans for the rental contract later, and Jo said she would.

ACTION: A motion of resolution of support for the Samstagsschule and for hosting it at Rilke Schule.

Moved by Greg Gould

Seconded by Debra Schwicht

VOTE:

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

Marianna Grant asked if our curriculum parallels any German curriculum. It does not exactly but we do teach a number of things that would also be taught in Germany. Crystal asked Jo to share our test scores: Our students usually take the A2 exam. We gave them the American High School German Exam. Our children got 7 of the top 10 spots in the exam for the State of Alaska.

The Jugendfest will be held on April 2nd. Our theme this year will be the Neibelungenlied. The children will attend mini classes. We are looking for parents who are willing to help prepare and serve lunch and help with setup.

The American History in German project is coming along. Jo sent her thanks to whoever printed the Inca and Mayan pieces in color for the history material. It is appreciated.

E. Building

Jeff Ullom gave a slide show about our two possible options for the future, which include staying where we are or leasing space at another property near Lake Otis and Abbott Road. There was a substantial question and answer period with parents and staff about a building choice for next year. Many parents expressed frustration about the current building being too small to meet our future growth needs, and traffic and playground congestion issues. They asked about the possible addition to the current site. The challenges of purchasing our own property through RSI were discussed, but many creative ideas were suggested. School size and location were discussed, as well as options for building our own school down the road. Parents were concerned more about classroom size than overall school size, both in terms of the number of students and physical room size. Having more athletic space and student opportunities for older students is seen as a real motivator to be at a different site closer to other elementary and middle schools. Staff expressed concerns about making sure that all voices have been heard in the process. Parents commented that we need to strengthen our science program. There was support for a survey to solicit opinions, although there was also concern that it is too late in the process at this point to make meaningful changes based on input now. Parents were most concerned about a great, safe, education for their kids, regardless of the place or the size of the school.

ACTION: A motion to close the discussion

Moved by Debra Schwicht

Seconded by Liz Crafford

VOTE

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

IV. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: That the minutes from our February 11th meeting be approved as amended.

Moved by Greg Gould

Seconded by Elisa Snelling

VOTE

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

V. Public Comments

Raye – I appreciate the volunteers who guide my kids into drop off in the morning.

Cindy – The library hopes to open after spring break. We have an account at Title Wave books. You can donate them and have them put on the Rilke Schule account. This is our chance to get newer books. Ali asked if families should donate books directly or take them to Title wave – she suggested Title Wave.

Frank said thank you for Fasching, Arlynda.

VI. Reports

A. Verein

We are working on the auction. There are only a few tables left. We will have the pay pal account set up soon on the web site.

We need help setting up, tearing down, transporting stuff etc.

The auction committee wants to ask about auctioning three parking spots for next year.

ACTION: that we designate 3 parking spaces for the auction.

Moved by Steve Schaffer

Seconded by Debra

VOTE

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

The Verein said thank you to Frank for being the first President to attend a Verein meeting. Elisa asked who does the corporate filings for the Verein. Right now RSV is ‘non-compliant’. Elisa volunteers to help the RSV with the corporate filings. Tallee replied that she has the paperwork with her and was planning to gather the necessary information and file it the next day.

B. Charter School Supervisor

Mary reported on several issues. Mark Ha just met with us about the Native School Building. He represents the landlord on that. I’m trying hard to look at the big picture. Please keep me informed. Joe was going to talk with each APC chair from each school to get together. I’d really like to see that happen. The district would like us to have a meeting in August that has the AA from each school to talk about procedures about things that are not appropriate to say to parents

regarding admission to a Charter School. Often the AA is the first person the parent talks to, and they need to be informed.

Reminder: The year end report will be due to me on August 16th. Please appoint people now to be the report committee. We will have to go before the board on the last Monday of August. Please get it to me 10 days ahead of time.

I have put together a calendar of ideas for things for the board to tend to. These are suggestions for how to get things done early so you don't have surprises.

We received our OASIS MONEY \$164,696. Hooray!

Cindy asked about writing grants. Liz recommended she check with Allison. Mary noted that anyone who gives over \$5000 to a school get recognition at the ASD school board meetings.

C. Principal

We were contacted by BP about a family coming from Germany at the end of the month with a child who speaks no English, only German. He would be going into third grade. Would we make an exception to increase the class size by one to accommodate this child?

The board agreed with Crystal that we should make an exception due to hardship to raise our third grade cap and admit a German-only speaking student.

The Chamber of commerce approached us about being a member. Frank asked about the benefits of belonging. We could benefit from advertising for the school, the good will of being active in the community and training opportunities. The businesses connections can be very valuable. It was noted that it is only beneficial from a marketing and networking perspective if you have someone willing to talk and state the needs of the school. So there would need to be training about how to do this effectively. Frank asked Crystal who would she see attending. She suggested possibly a few board members and a few staff would be interested in attending. Frank suggested we come back to this under unfinished business.

March 15th will be the ASD board meeting to formally accept PASCH grant. Be there at 7 PM
Crystal and Liz will attend meeting.

D. Officer reports

President

We spent time working on building issues and the Principal evaluation this month.

Vice President –none

Secretary

The APC Contact information was distributed to all APC members. The APC meeting schedule for April – August was finalized.

Frank asked that we please simplify communication by going through the secretary.

Treasurer

We finally have the missing \$165,000 in the budget from our extra students from the count.

G. Goals –no report

D. Ad Hoc – no report

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

A. Samstagschule

Discussed above under curriculum

B. Traffic duty volunteer shortage

Would it be possible to have a teacher volunteer on crosswalk? To encourage more parents to come out and help can we give them double volunteer time? Anglika pointed out that it can be difficult to have an intern substitute for the teacher with the children in line because they need to leave with their host parents.

ACTION: that parents who work as volunteers for morning and afternoon dropoff will receive double volunteer hours.

Moved by: Jeff Ullom

Seconded by: Steve Schaffer

VOTE

In Favor: Liz, Frank, Jeff, Steve, Debra, Greg

Opposed: Elisa

MOTION PASSES

ACTION: that we recess into executive session to discuss matters of personnel confidentiality compliant with Open Meeting Law

Moved by: Greg Gould

Seconded by: Elisa Snelling

VOTE

Unanimous

MOTION PASSES

The meeting recessed into executive session at 9:45 PM

VIII. Executive Session (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)

A. Principal Evaluation

B. Risk Assessment Update

C. Building Lease Options

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM