

Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee
FINAL Meeting Minutes



Thursday, August 12th, 2010, 5:30 PM
Regular Meeting
Minutes approved, September 2nd, 2010

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM.

Board Members Present: Liz Crafford, Greg Gould, Robert Hebert, Elisa Snelling, Debra Schwicht, Claudia Bittlingmaier, Jo Sanders, Crystal Wrabetz

Board Members Excused: Jeff Ullom, Steve Schaffer, Frank Mächt

Others attending the meeting were: Mary Meade, Stephanie Campbell, Beth Schlabaugh, Angelika West, Evan and Denise Cotten, Lauren de Mander, Cassie Jeremias

II. Opening Comments

III. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION: to adopt the agenda

Moved by: Jo

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSED

IV. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: to approve the July Minutes

Moved by: Robert

VOTE: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION PASSED

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Reports

A. Verein (PTO)

Verein Secretary Denise – They have no official business to report. The summer barbecue was a success. She requested clarification of who will be using the new kitchen at school? We need to clarify who is responsible for keeping it clean, and whether the Verein is allowed to store things in there.

Jo Sanders had inquired about the Verein being the umbrella organization for the new Samstagschule but learned that it would cost several thousand dollars to set it up as such, so she will plan on incorporating it separately.

B. Charter School Supervisor

Mary noted that she thought we did a good job on the Year End Report. The school board meeting on the 23rd starts at 6:30 PM. We are on the agenda for later in the evening, probably around 8 PM or later.

At Greg's request, Mary looked into the previous history of parents that have had issues with the dress code. There have been a few lawsuits around the country on this issue. Many districts across the nation have adopted dress codes or uniforms, not just at charter schools. The consensus seems to be that if there is another alternative available to families, having a dress code is not considered a problem. Some programs have an 'opt out' policy for parents, but many do not. The history of Alaska having a related State Supreme Court case (Breese v Smith, 1972, about length of hair) makes it an issue worth investigating. Mary has passed this information on to the district lawyers, who do not see an issue with it at this time; however, it is an interesting and evolving issue. There is a part of the school board policy (Appendix A, Section E, Freedom of and Responsibilities Relating to Speech and Assembly) that addresses students' freedom of expression and the general school district dress code in particular (p. 34). We are advised that we are in compliance with the policy and are permitted to have a dress code at this time.

Mary says she doesn't know much about what is happening with the move, and if there is anything she can do to help, she will do what she can.

C. Principal

The Year End Report is done, and Liz will put a link to the report online.

Terri is trying to get us a firm student enrollment number. We have a waitlist for 1st grade only. Kindergarten is at about 82.

Dress code question – is natural color hair dye a problem? The board agreed that if it is not distracting for the teacher and students (as stated in the ASD Policy Manual) it is not a problem.

Optional Intensives – we can't cancel them. I have talked to Tim – He will be fine running it. We will have registration forms and signup like we do with homework club. A TA position will also be able to help Tim. Parent volunteers should call or show up. Half of the 10 interns will also help each week. We won't have parents helping out at the beginning.

The cost for Homework will probably be \$150 per hour per quarter and OI's will be \$10 per week.

Brett is working on a sign for the school on the front.

Changes in employees: One person decided not to come. Tyler S. is willing to take first grade. We are assigning him two TA's. He will do collaborative planning with both teachers. Heidi Hale will take on 2nd grade English.

Mary added that in the last 4 years, a number of 6th grade parents district wide have wanted pre-algebra for their kids. The district put in a 0 hour pre-algebra class in the middle schools a few years ago. Charter schools didn't get involved in that. The district has changed this to offer the program online this year. Each group will have an assigned middle school teacher to check in with. The cost is \$237.50 per semester. 6th graders who qualify (via testing) are allowed but for charter schools, the family must pay for the program.

D. Officers

President

Nothing to report

Vice President

Excused

Secretary

Liz asked about setting meeting dates for the coming year. Is the first Thursday of the month ok with everyone? We will start the meetings earlier at 5:30 PM, in hopes of an earlier finish.

Treasurer

The year-end numbers from Terri looked ok.

E. Curriculum

1. In general, Janice Gullickson reiterated that if older students do not test at the right level, we may not admit them to the school.
2. The new Interns seem to be very enthusiastic. We have 9 women and 1 man. 5 are here, and the others will be arriving soon. We will have a barbecue in September with interns and their families for everyone to meet them.
3. Former intern Toby Radke, who is teaching at Rilke Schule in Stuttgart, is here visiting for a few weeks and will be helping at school.

F. Ad Hoc

The Bylaws have been tabled until a workgroup meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. New Business

A. Building Update

Greg reported that the classrooms have been turned over for occupancy. There are still many issues to address, but many milestones have been achieved.

Portables – The steel was delivered last week, and site preparation has started. The intent is to have steel placed and welded early next week, with the electrical about the same time. The stick framing will be delivered on Wednesday next week. Completion is anticipated for the 3rd week of September.

Crystal noted that the District requires that classroom doors that open inward can't have more than 49 people in them. We have several doors that need to be reversed if this is the case.

We also need to post 'NOT AN EXIT' signs on lots of doors.

B. Assembly, Mon. Aug. 16th?

We have thought about various options, but the timing is not good at this point with all that has to be done before next Wednesday when school opens. If we held an assembly right before kindergarten and first grade started on Monday, August 23rd from 5 to 7, would that work? What information can we get to the parents to notify them? We could use the School Messenger call out service. This would be both the Open House and Back to school social at the same time.

C. Optional Intensives Update and Discussion

See above. The RSV doesn't have the teeth to enforce collecting money owed from last year's activities. How can the school help with the solution to outstanding money owed from last year? Can we link current sign-ups to last year's payment? Mary says that is not a problem. A letter will go out to parents who are believed to still owe money from last year, stating that they must pay before they will be allowed to register for this year's activities.

D. Staffing Issues

These were covered in the principal's report.

E. Tissues and Tears Event

Will be held on Tuesday, August 24th starting at 8:30 am. This is a chance for new parents to meet each other and chat.

F. APC-Staff luncheon

The APC will host a luncheon for the staff on Tuesday, Aug 17th at noon – Elisa and Liz will coordinate, and we will plan for 40 people.

ACTION: motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

Moved by: Greg

VOTE: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION PASSED

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

1. 650 International litigation issues

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.