

**WOODLAND STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE CHARTER COUNCIL**

March 16th, 2022, 5:00 pm
17811 Arnold Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476 in Main Hall

MINUTES

Procedural (5:00 pm)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Board President at: 5:07

Verse and Welcome:

*Imbue thyself with the power of imagination.
Have courage for the truth.
Sharpen thy feeling for responsibility of soul.*

B. ROLL CALL

Present? (Mark Y/N)

Y Robert Stewart (RS), Board President (Board appointed)

Y Seth Olyer (SO, Vice President (Parent body elected)

Y Brooke Sevenau (BS), Board member (Board appointed elected)

Y Sonia Mendoza (SM, Board member (Parent body seat, Board appointed for remainder of 2022)

Y Bill Kobabe (BK), Board member (Faculty elected)

Y Barbara Fitzmaurice (BF), Board member (Community Board appointed)

N Joan Baugh (JB), Board member (Faculty elected)

Vacant, (Parent body elected)

Vacant, (Parent body elected)

C. DESIGNATE A TIMEKEEPER FOR MEETING: SO

Consent Agenda Items – adjustment of agenda, as needed (5:02 pm)

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered by the Board to be routine and will be approved/enacted by the Board in one motion in the form listed below. Unless specifically requested by a Board member for further discussion or removed from the agenda, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board voting on them.

1. Warrants and Expenditures: March 2022
2. Regular Meeting Minutes: February 9th, 2022
3. Agenda: March 16th, 2022

Staff Recommendation: **Approve all consent agenda items**

Action:	Approved	Ayes:	6
Motioned by:	SO	Nays:	
Seconded by:	BS	Abstain:	

Notes on vote above:

Communications (5:10 pm)

A. PUBLIC COMMENT (If a member of the public plans to speak during this time, please be sure to read the meeting guidelines on page 1 and fill out a "Request to Speak" form and hand it to the Board President. Your name will be called when it is your turn to speak. Bear in mind that your comments become part of the public record. Note: The Board cannot discuss items that are not on the agenda and will therefore not respond substantively to comments addressing such items.

1. READ OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE (if any):

A letter from Susan our speech therapist asking for masks on at all times during instruction, even outside, unless she needs the student to see her mouth.

A Board member requested a nuclear fallout emergency plan. CH will investigate.

Information Items - Reports and other items scheduled for information & discussion (5:30 pm)

- **Educational Foundation Report** – Rachel (10 min)
 - Family giving now at 78%, matching pre-pandemic levels
 - Percentages are increasing, largely due to low or one-time donations or having received credit for filling out the form without a donation
 - Rcvd: \$52.5K so far on expenses of \$7K
 - Auction Ticket promotions coming up
 - Still looking for a fund a need anchor project
 - Still looking for auction item donations
- **Business/Operation Manager Report** – Becky (10 min)
 - Cal Pads student information now fully updated
 - Food Audit: our participation in the federally funded food program was audited. It's likely this program will be extended into next year and possibly expanded back to 2 meals/day, same as 2020
 - Our Special Ed department spending has also been reviewed and audited
- **2nd Interim Budget** – Becky (20 min) **VOTE**
 - Deadline of January 31 was met
 - Getting word of State Schools funding increases and COLA increases for next year, but specific amounts are unknown
 - We are down \$74K of reduced income due to lower-than-expected enrollment
 - Aftercare income lower – same reason – but is building slowly
 - We are approved to carry some unused Covid mitigation funds into next year
 - Class 8 trip has been funded as per Fieldtrip Funding matrix and policy
 - Work at lowering truancy is having some effect and is ongoing
 - Projected enrollment for next year: 227 students. Currently have 220 applications
 - We will use this number for the upcoming budget cycle
- **Covid Safety Update** – Becky (10 min) **VOTE**
 - Sonoma Valley and Sonoma County Schools have updated to the new CA State mandates, and we can modify our plan within these relaxed State guidelines if we choose by updating and submitting our modifications from our current plan. Any changes made require Board approval

- We conducted a survey of stakeholders to gauge their opinions and inform the decision-making process: See WSCS Covid Safety Update & Recommendation for details and participation levels of the various groups participating
- Masking policies in all public spaces remain unchanged from the health department: MASKING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED at all times - despite the new relaxed mandates allowing vaccinated individuals to unmask in certain public and indoor places
- When considering relaxing any Covid policy, schools are asked to consider local Covid caseloads, local vaccination rates, and local access to health care for their school populations to inform making any proposed changes
- **Executive Director Evaluation Update** – Robert (5 min)
 - This process is underway (committee met 3/16). Committee members are: SO, RS, BS (CC), Amy Landers and Sally Romer (faculty) and Carly Fedor from PA
 - A community survey will be coming out on 3/28 and will be available for 1 week
 - Board reps will collect data, share with committee, then ED and to the Board in April with results
- **Form 700** – Caroline (10 min)
 - Form to be shared with each Board member this week, to be filled-out and returned by 3/30
- **Hiring Report** – Caroline (10 min)
 - We have hired a first-grade teacher. Her references supported her enthusiastically. She will need to clear her credential.
 - We have also hired a new Special Ed teacher for next year
 - We may still need a KG teacher, see ED Report below for details
- **Executive Director Report** – Caroline (10 min)
 - Current enrollment is 223
 - We currently have 44 applications for next year, and too many to kindergarten – with just two classes currently. This may mean opening a third Kindergarten and hiring a new teacher
 - Kindergarten classes are having a collective meeting to help parents understand and support literacy in their home lives
 - \$10K grant has been applied for from the Sonoma Vintners Assoc. for promoting literacy, and we will use the money to host STORY HOUR IN SPANISH events in the upcoming months
 - We have also co-hosted a craft making/literacy event at La Luz recently
 - Budgeting process for 2022/23 year will begin soon and an Admin-Finance team is being formed by Caroline for this process
 - All on campus activity must cease by the end of the day Friday June 10. All access to the main campus will be restricted after that date. Armando will be allowed to enter and to care for landscaping but must wear protective gear
 - Armando's normal summertime hours will be preserved. He will not suffer a reduction of paid time due to construction activities
- **Faculty Report** – Bill (5 min)
 - Ongoing efforts to promote literacy and support our EL students continue
 - Faculty looking forward to planning SPRING ASSEMBLY, MAY DAY AND GRADUATION.

- The reality of moving everything out of three of our buildings is setting in and we are looking forward towards planning for this. We hope to get students involved in packing and moving.
 - Draft 2022/23 calendar has been distributed, and Caroline Hopewell asks for our opinions about placement of first day and where the days around the December holidays should fall. Also, when viewing this draft, ignore the dates listed in the text box... they have NOT been updated
- **Parent Association Report** – Brooke (5 min)
 - There is a rising concern about lack of leadership, and many current people in these positions are moving on and new volunteers are not arriving

Items Scheduled for Action and Discussion

Consider approval of: 2nd Interim Budget

Staff Recommendation: **Approve**

Action:	Approved	Ayes:	6
Motioned by:	SO	Nays:	
Seconded by:	BF	Abstain:	

Notes on vote above:

Consider approval of: Covid Safety Update

Staff Recommendation: **Approve**

Action:	Our existing masking policy will remain unchanged – at least until the spring break and perhaps until the end of the year – with the decision to change the policy based on pandemic conditions between now and our next meeting.	Ayes:	2
Motioned by:	SO	Nays:	4
Seconded by:	SM	Abstain:	

Notes on vote above: *Motion does not carry and was removed by the table by author.*

Consider approval of: Covid Safety Update

Staff Recommendation: **Approve**

Action:	Approve recommend COVID Safety Plan update prepared by the executive director and COVID safety officer as submitted.	Ayes:	5
Motioned by:	RS	Nays:	1
Seconded by:	BF (this was retracted after clarification on a point), then SO	Abstain:	

Notes on vote above: *This topic will be revisited after spring break to review any new info to help to determine how to proceed until the end of the school year.*

Recess to closed session

Reconvene and ratify closed session decisions

Items for next meeting agenda:

Items for a future meeting agenda:

What are our current expectations for teacher training?

NOTE: Not all of this was discussed at the meeting, and Bill Kobabe is filling in some of the missing details of the topics we touched on as to our current policies and recent history of these topics from his own recollections)

THERE ARE TWO PARTS OF THIS QUESTION:

- This includes grade specific training courses offered during the summer which the school both expects (as stated in the employee handbook?) and has historically been funded by the school. Registration Fees have always been paid and lodging has sometimes been paid. This obligation is not stated in the current employment contract, however. It might also constitute a fair labor practices violation since these trainings have traditionally been held onsite at a remote location and typically run about 40 hours over the course of a week. There is some precedent that this arrangement is in essence work that is required to be completed by the employee but is not compensated for by the employer. River Oaks Charter school in Ukiah recently contested this point against its teachers collective bargaining unit and lost. They were required extended the contract year by one week and pay the teachers to attend mandated training programs.
- And, there is the question of Waldorf Teacher Training: We encourage teachers to be - or to become - a fully trained and certificated Waldorf Teacher from a recognized training program. However, we do not currently require it or require a commitment to join a training program as a condition of employment. We do provide a salary scale "point" for being fully trained and have at times in the past financially supported Waldorf Teacher training completion in various ways.

Next regular meeting:

April 20th, 2022, 5 PM

Closing Verse:

"A healthy social life is found, when, in each individual, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the community, the virtue of each one is living."

Adjourn meeting at: 8:55 pm