



135 Joerschke Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945 | 530-477-1235

Minutes

Bitney College Preparatory High School Charter Council
 Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 6:00 PM
 Place: 135 Joerschke Drive, Grass Valley

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Roll Call**

Council Position	Member Name	Attending
Parent	DietLinde Williams	x
Parent	Lang Norris-Waters	-
Parent	Joan Moskowitz Lewin	x
Faculty	Amy Pugel Secretary	x
Faculty	Beth Grebe	x
Academic Dean	Dave Peterson	x
Student	Jacob Arnold	-
Student (alternate)		
Community		
Community	Shana Stratton Chair	x
Community		
Director (non-voting)	Russ Jones	x

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Amy Pugel made a motion; Beth Grebe seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. **Public Forum:** Eric Robins was present to observe Charter Council, considering a placement on the Council.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Dave Peterson moved to approve the minutes as amended; Beth Grebe seconded. Unanimously approved.
6. **Consent Agenda:** Amy Pugel moved to approve the agenda as presented; Beth Grebe seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - 6.1. **Director’s Report:** Russ submitted a report updating council regarding work from the past month.
 - 6.2 **Warrants:** No warrants were presented. Next month.
7. **Director’s Update and Committee Reports:** Russ updated Council on the resolution of the Due Process complaint. We have enrolled another family with a similar history whose IEP was this week,

it went well. We set a positive tone and the student is excelling. Brain Buster went very well. Charter schools were well represented with the winners of both categories going to charter schools. Tech Committee Computer Lab update: we projected \$30K for purchase of iMac's, but have purchased refurbished machines at a savings of \$20K. Russ presented the Big Picture Learning Model that aligns with our direction. He handed out a list of "distinguishers" that explains how BPL schools are different. We have started our Internship program but there have been conflicts with on-site time, transportation, etc... Students are excited about the program, benefitting well from it. Philip works at Met Sacramento, a BPL, that also offers an Internship Program that places students in all-day internships that get around the time constraints of our current program. Bitney's beginnings were unique but, over the years, other schools have popped up that compete with our original program. Some staff view this as a path forward for our students and for Bitney's vision for preparing students for real-life learning. This model would allow us to attract students, growing our program, because it is a unique approach to education. This Thursday, the staff will look at a pilot program that has been put in place for two current Bitney students who are not currently being served well with our current paradigm. This approach could serve an untapped niche in our wider community. Russ explained the structure of the Sac Met program: 3 days in school, 2 days on-site Internships. Their school days include "regular" teaching in workshop style core classes as well as advisory classes to integrate students into other aspects of the school. There are concerns about what this would look like for Bitney, how we could make this work here, how it fits with our current culture. With respect to the Charter Council, we will have to address a different set of graduation criteria, parallel to our a-g requirements, so we do not have to waive requirements on an individual basis. Some council members commented on how the diversity of our student body is reflected in the diversity of our teaching. Are there funding opportunities or grants available to help us pursue this path? What is the next step? We are looking for a date for when one of the coaches could come to Bitney to do a Student Success Survey. We are already trying to apply part of the model for some students that might otherwise leave. It would be interesting to hear from former Charter Council members and Bitney directors to get their perspective on this possible future direction. Does the Charter Council have any concerns about this? Will this require amendments to our charter? Some students may actually not be attracted to Bitney because of the College Prep portion of our name. Is there a hard deadline for implementing the program? Will there be an informational meeting with parents to address their concerns? We would like to pursue this incrementally, deliberately, as we don't want to institute drastic change. Site Committee reported that they will be meeting to consider how to raise funds from facility use during the summer. Marketing Committee is meeting on Thursday to talk about how to continue fundraising, marketing going forward. There has been great progress in branding and materials production.

8. **Bylaws and Policy Committee Update:** meeting was postponed to next month due to illness.
9. **Director's Evaluation Committee:** This is the time of year that we need to put together a committee to solicit feedback from the staff, parents, and broader community. Dietlinde will work with parent feedback. Amy will collect feedback from staff and students. Shana Stratton will solicit feedback from the greater community.
10. **Nevada County Superintendent of School Report:** Shana passed around copies of the Nevada County Superintendent's report which is essentially an audit of the schools in Nevada County. She printed out those pages that were relevant to Bitney as the original document was 150 pages long. The report presented ADA statistics as well as financials. We are in compliance so the report was mostly informational.
11. **Parent Council Report:** The council is struggling with getting new membership. It seems that interested parents are already maxed out with other obligations. They discussed new fundraising opportunities: a yard sale/plant sale with Gardening class contributing seedlings. They also discussed

how to encourage parent participation through selling what parents get out of being in Parent Council. Nonprofit organization of which we are a part is hosting a Yard Sale in May and members can get a site through them. Russ offered some perspective on fundraising based on recent events hosted by Nevada City School of the Arts and Yuba River Charter, which host single events that bring in large amounts of money, but they are huge productions. Russ will talk with Patti Glenn about how we can pursue similar events.

- 12. Dean's Report:** We have an Info Night this Thursday. We had one a couple weeks ago and it was fairly well attended. Two students shadowed from that event. This event may draw in those parents with students who attend NCSA as they were on their Death Valley trip during our last info night. Dave has been visiting 8th grade classrooms around the county to generate interest in our program. CAASP testing is coming up on April 17th for 11th-graders.
- 13. Student Government Report:** no student representative was present. Jacob spoke with Russ earlier today about the Internet blocking issue. He stated that the current status seems "fine" but he did not indicate if this was his personal perspective or if it came from the larger student body. We do not currently have an alternate student representative. Samantha Limonciello can finish out this year as a rep, but will not be here next year.
- 14. Future Agenda Items:** 2016/2017 School Calendar – please consider Special Ed staff at other schools because calendars are not aligned; Council Member Election; Filling vacancies – Internship/Business owners, Rotary members; Projected Budget for 2016/2017
- 15. Next Meeting:** Dave Peterson moved that we convene our next meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19th, 2016. Beth Grebe seconded. Unanimously approved.
- 16. Adjournment:** Amy Pugel moved that we adjourn the meeting; Beth Grebe seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Pugel