

10/12/15 - Rilke Schule APC Meeting

Present: Jason Storter, Peter Birmanns, Kjersti vonWichman, Kjerstin Lastufka, James Wileman, Morten Kjerland, Givey Kochanowski, Megan Olson

Ex officio: Kristina Murray, RSV representative

Others in Attendance:

Bryan Bearss
Erin Kirkland
Eric Pedersen
Rebecca Colvin
Lisa Cooper
Hilary Kjerland

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

Principal's report (attached)

Budget update provided (attached)

School check-in system was renewed

School picture day was today – make up day is Nov. 2

Rilkeschule.org has been updated, except for updated staff photos (it will be easier now to transfer everything to the ASD platform when that happens). Heather is in charge of updating the web site, training is occurring for other staff members (hope to have a back up for Heather soon).

Current enrollment: 474 (built budget on 487), so 13 students off budget.

Dana provided details of real impact on front office staff to running our own clubs. Extremely busy, no break – parents use front office as resource for club info that distracts from real day-to-day duties.

Treasurer's report – Morten commented that budget documents distributed tonight do not include carry forward and other figures that impact the real budget picture.

MOTION: move budget approval to November (Morten moved, Kjerstin seconded). All voted yes except for Givey who said he would comment further later in meeting.

Communications report - Kjerstin created YouTube channel several months ago and recently added Dana as an administrator.

- Die Panther Presse will no longer be produced
- we can and should communicate more frequently with parents
- E.g. we are overdue for a communication from the APC

MOTION: to approve the development of a parent communication by Jason and Kjerstin. Communication will come from the APC Chair.

- sound proofing in the gym
- playground status
- drop-off/pick-up procedures (Polaris principal has invited us to a meeting re: traffic congestion). Teachers have been instructed to bring kids back inside school at 3:15 pm. Kids can be called in from late pick-up.
- building needs for private fund raising (and donorschoose.com)
- the developer's generosity in helping us complete our building project
- School leadership change – gather parent community input
- Club reorganization - prepare parent community for potential changes

Tabled vote on this motion until end of the meeting, after all issues are discussed.

Chair's Report –

- Playground Status – it has not been a good situation with ExerPlay. Conference call recently with Karl from ExerPlay. Recent proposal to split the overage costs, Exerplay declined but instead offered to pay for \$6k+ for additional timbers to border the playground. Total overage is approx. \$63-64k more than anticipated. RSI paid for gravel, RSV paid for equipment and is also paying for \$2k in additional gravel. The APC absorbed all overage beyond those items.
- Marissa Wang worked with Alaska Sand and Gravel to get a significant discount on the gravel. Huge thanks to her.
- Playground should be done this week, available to kids for play on Wednesday, Oct. 14.
- Minutes will be completed and posted promptly from here moving forward
- Accoustic panels and basketball hoops are being investigated for the gym – info on costs is expected soon
- APC should meet soon to decide upon process for renting our facility to outside groups (churches, community groups, basketball camps, etc). We will be sub-leasing our building moving forward, an exciting new revenue opportunity.
- ACME fencing – 75% donation of fencing by this fencing company that is owned by a Rilke Schule parent. Thank you for the generosity.
 - o Motion: APC moved to pay no more than \$7k for our portion of the total fencing project – Approved

- Working with the Muni on kitchen plans designed by RIM architects – funding will be sought for install once plans are approved. Three-compartment sink, milk coolers and warming cart have been sourced/donated.
- Storage is an issue, especially gym equipment – need to find solution to store tables, perhaps shelving.

Teacher Reports:

- Peter Birrmanns – returning teachers are strained to provide mentorship and orientation for new teachers. We have a lot of brand new teachers (half of RS teachers this year are in their first year) – more than usual - who require guidance that is not systemically provided. Urge APC to consider a reorganized leadership structure that provides adequate support for ALL teachers – veteran teachers and brand new ones.
- Frau Cooper – the new Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) have made teachers’ jobs even more difficult. Many of our students are already very talented and moving them eight points higher is extremely difficult, if not impossible because there are no points to be had. Teachers are evaluated on the SGOs so it is incredibly difficult and stressful. This is an ASD standard but APC should know the stressful environment in which teachers are operating this year.
- Parents could support teachers in advocating that Rilke Schule be exempt from the AIMSweb testing standard and CommonCore curriculum.
- Givey added that we need to populate our committees - the Performance Committee should take this issue up and decide upon direction
- We ought to address this at the next meeting and develop our legislative agenda before the session begins in January. Advocacy at State level will be required.
- Performance (Givey K reported)– met recently to discuss how to replace Herr Ball when he retires at the end of this fiscal year.
 - o This announcement will be made in the next parent communication
 - o The APC will solicit feedback/ideas from the parent community about our next principal
- We need to fill our committees
- We also need to be careful and aware of our own policies and take care to adhere to those policies with regard to purchasing, entering lease agreements, etc.
- MOTION: Givey moved to create an ad hoc committee to analyze and advise the principal with regard to traffic patterns, parking as well as pick up and drop off. This committee would require two APC members and four parents to create. The committee will provide an interim report in November and a final report in December. Kjersti seconded. James objected, all others in favor.
- Jason has met with the President of the Polaris PTO and began positive dialogue on the topic of traffic.

- BTF – Kjersti reported that the Building Task Force will remain active until January 2016
- RSV - Playground will be open and able to be used by kids beginning Wednesday of THIS WEEK!
- Playground is covered under Rilke Schule’s current insurance
- APC meeting schedule:
 - o Third Thursday of the month, except annual meeting:
 - Nov. 19
 - Dec. 17
 - Jan. 21
 - Feb. 25 (APC Annual Meeting and Election)
- Club Registration – we realize the current system is broken. Before- and after-care programs are a management issue for the principal to handle. Herr Ball will consider options for third and fourth quarters. Survey parents at parent-teacher conferences about costs that can be borne for the clubs. May increase cost for third and fourth quarter clubs marginally. The APC commits to communicating openly, transparently and frequently with the community about this important school issue.
- Public Comment – there is an ASD school member who still sits on the board of the RSV. She serves until Oct. when RSV election occurs.

With regard to the parent communications motion, the APC amended motion to recommend a series of communications rather than one bulk letter that attempts to include everything. APPROVED. Jason, Herr Ball and Kjerstin to devise timeline and communications.

Herr Ball to consider a weekly email update to all parents that would be shorter and hit just current topics. Suggestion was made that perhaps a parent volunteer could help with that communication project regularly.

Executive session begins at 9:17 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 pm.

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