

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023 6:00 PM

Location: Watershed Charter School – Ms. Hansen’s Room

1. Welcome

- a. Call to order: 6:06 PM
- b. Review minutes: Sacha Layos moved to approve. Larissa Sommer seconded. Unanimously approved.
- c. All board members were in attendance except Rebecca Hansen

2. Public comment: None

3. Principal’s report:

- a. Budget: Please refer to the budget document for details
- b. Highlights: Watershed and some other charters are asking how the encumbered amount was determined because it was lower this year than expected. Salaries increased this year. Wilderness First Aid and AK Reads are examples of professional development costs this year. Every field trip is \$2 per student per day and extra coverage is required for the more remote trips. Increasing oil costs impacted the budget more this year. We should get an increase from two students if they remain, putting Watershed in a budget surplus. Mr. Decker asked the board for permission to put the extra money into supplies.
- c. Questions from the board: Do we need to spend down our money and not put as much in the encumbered funds? We are being required to keep it at 10% or the district will keep it. Is the change in insurance reflected? Yes. Is there a requirement to have a balanced budget? No, in case we needed to spend down money for our rollover. How is money spent? Jarrod has to click and make approvals to spend from any budget line. Does Watershed have to contract themselves? Yes, for everything except work on the district network. Is the money teachers raise separate from the budget? Yes, the club accounts are separate from the school budget and it rolls over with the expectation that the money is spent on the current year’s class.
- d. Ethnicity graph was presented to FNSB School Board in the spring and well-received.
- e. Homer trip went well; new staff (Kindergarten teacher, K aide and 7th grade teacher)

- f. AK Reads Act: Mr. Decker has assessed all first and third graders and a few fourth graders. The K teacher has assessed all the K students. Walk-to-intervention (WIN) starts next week. 90 minute reading blocks will be combined with 30 minutes of WIN. During WIN, students will either remain in their class for instruction or go to small group instruction. Watershed needed a structured, sequenced program designed using Science of Reading (UFLI). 70% of our language arts program should be delivered as part of our science and social studies curriculum. Mr. Decker wrote a building plan and submitted it to the district to send to the state. Students identified as below grade level need a reading action plan, regular meetings and progress monitoring every two weeks. In the future, a writing program that provides structure (scope and sequence) has been identified as a need by teachers.

4. Action Items:

- a. Officer elections: Jason moved and no objections
Chair (parent): Jason Gillam will remain Chair
Vice Chair (parent): Larissa Sommer accepted the position of Vice Chair
Secretary: Abigail Paul will remain in this position
- b. Approval of the budget: Jason Gillam moved to approve the budget. Dave Merrill seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

5. Discussion items:

- a. Strategic Plan Committee update: The survey needs to be reviewed again and then brought before the board for approval. Board members should look at it before the next meeting.
- b. Attendance policy: Larissa Sommer, at the last meeting, suggested a probationary period if we keep the attendance policy. Asking families to leave is difficult but the theory is that it helps families get students to school. A pre-approval process for families with serious issues was suggested, however it could lead to families taking even more time later. As a school of choice with a long waitlist and sometimes even siblings who are waiting to get into the program, having an attendance policy gives other people in the community a chance. Every month, a notice is sent out to families.

6. Adjourn: Erin Otness motioned, Dave Merrill seconded. Adjourned at 7:24 PM.

The next APC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM