



Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 11 August 2021
6:00 PM @ Zoom

In accordance with Alaska State Statute, the Rilke Schule APC, under contract with the Anchorage School Board, operates this charter school. The purpose of the Academic Policy Committee is to provide strategic governance for the school and its future. The board meets publicly to conduct the business of the school. The board is comprised of voting and advisory members representing parents, faculty, and staff. Parent-elected representatives serve staggered, three-year terms with elections every February. The Academic Policy Committee values public comments and encourages all interested parties to submit written public comments on any subject to apc_rilke@asdk12.org. Fifteen minutes are reserved at the beginning and end of each regular meeting for public comments. *Next scheduled meeting is 19 August 2021.*

I. Call to order & Adoption of Agenda

6:01 pm called to order by Vice Chair Olson

Members Present: Bearss, Colvin, Olson, Parker, Posanka, Redick, Stacey, Vincent-Lang

Excused Absence: Storter, Wileman

Colvin moved to amend the agenda it include adoption of minutes from 17 June, 6 July, 2 August, and 6 August; Olson 2nd; Unanimous Approval

II. Public Comment: The public was given 2 minutes each to express their comments

III. Reports

A. Principal:

- Current enrollment: 434; projected 460
- Meeting in the coming days with Andy Ratlif regarding ESSER III funds (\$1,000,629)
- Hr. Bearss explained the process of development, submittal and approval of any plan that deviates from adopted ASD policies. Hr. Bearss advises against deviating from the ASD 2021-22 Return to School Operational Guidelines citing public health guidance, ASD's commitment to adjusting the Guidelines as the public health situation changes in the Anchorage community, the lack of staff capacity and expertise to create such a plan, and the overall process and schedule.
- Parker asked what leads to the projection of 460 students?
- Hr. Bearss replied that it is mainly a function of getting all the students, especially Kindergarteners, enrolled.

B. School Nurse: none

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IV. Old Business

A. Survey Regarding 2021-22 Return to School Operational Guidelines

- 245 total responses; checked for duplicates
- Qualitative responses followed the general themes of those stated in the public comments.

B. 2021-22 Return to School Operational Guidelines

1. Tabled Motion from 02 August 2021: Parker moved, Posanka 2nd to make masks optional at Rilke – Posanka moved to un-table this motion; no opposition.

Discussion:

- Parker: Masing is just one part of the overall comprehensive mitigation plan. Is ASD requiring Rilke to re-confirm the school specific safety plan that was implemented last school year?
- Hr. Bearss: ASD has issued its guidance. Rilke is an ASD school with ASD teachers and staff, and ASD students. Rilke's plan must comply with the ASD Guidance.
- Hr. Vincent-Lang: To clarify, Rilke has a school safety plan based on the ASD Guidance that outlines Rilke specific management practices and protocols.
- Colvin: Based on the explanation from Hr. Bearss, Rilke can deviate from ASD policy, however it would be very difficult and time consuming. ASD will constantly be re-assessing the public health situation.
- Orell (RSI Chair): RSI has set up the afterschool clubs to follow the ASD Guidelines. Following this plan will create certainty for RSI, club staffing and Rilke families. Deviation from this plan will make it difficult for RSI to operate club. Providing afterschool care is critical for Rilke enrollment.
- Hr. Vincent-Lang: This discussion oversteps the role of the APC. This is a management and operations issue that should be left up to the principal. Previous similar decisions were handled this way, the APC should be consistent moving forward. It is in our Charter and Bylaws to be consistent with ASD Policies.
- Fr. Stacey: Agree with Hr. Vincent-Lang. Our Charter and Bylaws state that Rilke policies may not be less restrictive than ASD. This is an operations and management matter. It is not the role of the APC to set this policy.
- Redick: It is part of the APC responsibilities to manage the finances of the school. Involved in that is making sure we have good enrollment, and therefore funding, to operate our school. If the decision on masking results in a large number of students leaving Rilke, that is something the APC would have to consider. In favor of whatever policies that have the least negative financial impact.
- Parker: There is an enrollment piece we need to understand, and it does impact funding. Early on in this discussion we were under the

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belief we were working with ASD operations to modify the Rilke specific plan, to vet ideas and have the opportunity develop a school specific plan. That is currently not the direction moving forward. Given with the timeframe we have and the need to give certainty and direction to Rilke teachers, staff and families, the prudent action is to default back to the ASD Guidelines and continue to develop and refine the Rilke specific safety plan.

- Colvin: Enrollment is important to our school and appreciate the feedback from the Rilke community. However, Rilke policy decisions should not be changed or altered based on survey results. Agree that this is an operational issue that should be managed by our principal. The question of masks or no masks is not something we should be discussing as a Board.
- Olson: Our interest is to provide certainty to the Rilke Community on how we will be operating at the start of school.

Vote:

Yes – 0 No – 7 : Motion defeated unanimously

2. Tabled motion from 06 August: Olson moved, Colvin 2nd to provisionally start the school year with the ASD Operational Guidelines and direct Hr. Bearss and staff to collect more data and develop a Rilke specific plan. – No Action

C. ASD Virtual

Discussion:

- Hr. Bearss: ASD Virtual Students will in included in Rilke enrollment. Would advise again offering in-person German instruction to the ASD Virtual students. This causes many conflicts in scheduling and contact tracing. Creates a lot more work for our teachers and staff. Students will not be getting access to the program as it is intended. It is operationally not feasible.

D. Adoption of Minutes from 17 June, 6 July, 2 August, and 6 August

Redick moved, Colvin 2nd to approve the minutes; Unanimous approval

- V. Public Comment: The public was given 2 minutes each o express their comments.
- VI. Potential Executive Session: none
- VII. Adjournment at 7:09 pm

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