Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee
Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 6:00 PM
@ Rilke Schule Campus

I. Call to order 6:03 pm
PRESENT: Crawford, Brickwell, Barr, Storter, vonWichman , Lastufka, Kjerland, Weese, Weiss

II. Adoption of agenda
Chair moved old business "A" to after Public Comments, and moved French topic "D" from new business to after old business A. Unanimously approved.

III. Approval of April Minutes & Special Meeting Minutes

IV. Public comments
Many members of the public attended in support and concern about the proposed changes to/cut of the French program. Parents of newer and older students were equally supportive and said how important multilingualism, not just German, was for their families. Many suggested creative solutions to the challenge of funding the class. Clarification was requested and given on the exact issue, which is both a funding and a scheduling issue. Clarification of the schedule and overall Middle School curriculum was provided.
Parents Tracy Bunch and Ulf Asplund offered their help and expertise on the safety/security committee regarding security cameras and general security overview, as well as the dress code review.

V. Old Business A: Front Door Buzzer Entry/ Security System Proposal
Looking at buzzer/security system, where to put it, etc. Roger Weese, Dana Graham and Ulf Asplund contributed to discussion. Ulf expressed the possibility that he can get some deals to get the cost down. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting, no motions taken.

VI. New Business D: Middle School French Class Review
Chair Storter gave background on evolution of issue. Discussion of scheduling challenge as size of middle school has changed over the years, budget, and looking at other options such as an after or before school club that uses an online French program. It was explained that our current program does not offer sufficient instructional time to qualify our students for French 2 in high school, and that our current enrollment requires our current French teacher to return to full time Math instruction for next year, and it is difficult to find a part time French teacher, and we lack space to fit a French class during the day, but that in the end even if all those problems could be solved, there are simply not available funds in the current forecast budget from Juneau to add a part time French teacher, and the APC is not allowed to pass a budget that is in deficit. It was also

suggested that other needs, such as a BPO or a vice-principal, might be considered more important than the French program, if funds do become available.

Kjerland moved to discontinue French for the middle school, grades 6-8, effective for the 2017-18 school year. 2nd von Wichman. Discussion that primary driver of decision is budget. Question called, passed unanimously.

Lastufka moved that the APC work closely with the school administration to explore a replacement option for French classes such as a club outside of school hours. Kjerland seconded. Lastufka and Storter will take the lead on this effort. Passed unanimously. Brickwell related her experience with an online French program that qualified her son to take high school French 2, and suggested that the club solution may well turn out to be a better program that what we are currently offering.

VII. Reports

A. Officers
   1. Chair Storter: dress code review update: explained delay due to transition of board member. Storter now taking the lead due to some legal issues that have come up. Also planning a parent survey. State of the school event was a success.
   2. Treasurer; will end year just slightly under budget.
   3. Vice Chair: year end letter to parents going out next few days. Dana G. confirmed ok to forward to incoming kindergarten parents.

B. Principal: as submitted in writing, and thank you to parents who came to talk at the meeting tonight and also to those who helped with field day. Would like to request approx. $3750 in funding for headsets for computers, this will be put on next agenda.

C. Teachers

   Appreciated appreciation week. Branden Strauch has requested we talk about facility rental policy. This will be put on next agenda.

D. Committees
   1. Facilities: ramping up trail work and field work this summer. Discussion of fence to keep moose off playground. Next meeting agenda: bulletin board purchase request.
   2. Strategic Planning: strategic plan is done and has been professionally prepared and printed by Gretchen Weiss.
   3. Performance: no report

E. Partner organizations
   1. RSV: none
   2. RSI: none

VIII. Old Business B: Sound System Proposal

Jason Storter summarized progress, looks like going to be saving some money due to ASD support of project.

IX. New business

A. Open APC seat election and seating of new member
Jason Storter explained that Gretchen Weiss unexpectedly had to resign due to unforeseen circumstances. Open seat was advertised to Rilke Community and one person applied, Rebecca Colvin. Storter entertained motion that Rebecca Colvin be elected to fill the Weiss seat. Colvin has been a parent volunteer for both RSV and RSI, coordinating Fun Friday registration for many years and the move from Sentry Drive to our current location. Weiss moved, KvWichman 2nd, passed unanimously.

B. Bylaws amendment proposal related to election procedures: as written, Lastufka moved to amend bylaws, Weese 2nd. First Reading of proposed amendment. Some questions as to legality of coin toss. Lastufka will research. Need text of proposed amendment for minutes record.

C. Shelving request in SPED area: referred to principal Barr for prioritization.

X. Public comments
Dana G. mentioned problem with seeing minutes on website.

XI. Executive session:
Regarding legal review of dress code

XII. Adjournment at 8:30 PM

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 is comprised of voting and advisory members representing parents, faculty and staff. Parent-elected representatives serve staggered, two-year terms with elections every February. The Academic Policy Committee highly 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 meeting: TBA