

Sacramento Waldorf School

Minutes of Special Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2019

7:00 p.m.

“Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility—these three forces are the very nerve of education.” – Rudolf Steiner

Present: Andrew Jensen, Marianne Gray, Lawrence Olson, Brian Bertossa, Jason Sigel, Tammy Duncan, Tim Carmichael, Michael Fields, Prashant Goteti, Eric Brickson, Esteri Hinman, Marcela Iglesias

Absent: Paul Steinberg

Guests: Approximately 50 parents, Margarita Hawk, Wendy Gittleman, Cyndi Bradshaw, Kim Winters

Topic/Presenter	Discussion	Decision/Action	Owner	Date
Tuition Increase/Sibling Discount Adjustment	<p>Opening remarks by Andrew Jensen</p> <p>Discussion of presence of pitchfork; acknowledgement by Darryl Cragun that he brought the pitchfork. Request made that pitchfork be removed.</p> <p>Andrew – There have been many rumors and inaccurate statements circulating. To dispel one, the HS will not be closed.</p> <p>Tim Carmichael – presentation of BOT position via PowerPoint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SWS is not in a financial crisis; our discussion is about sustainability 			

	<p>Lawrence discusses budget process; the budget – expression of our values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ tuition discussion begins Oct. – Nov. ➤ 2019/20 = \$6.1M budget; Development provides approximately 5% of the budget (\$300K), fees = 5%, tuition = 90% ➤ Reserves: \$400K restricted for TA, faculty compensation plus \$700K investments; 50% of \$700K = leftover of HS construction loan. ➤ discussion of tuition setting and recent consideration of new tuition models. ➤ through budget process we determine discounts, which are plugged into TADS; TA committee makes final decisions on TA <p>Andrew: discussion of possible tuition models for 2019-20: 1) across-the-board tuition increase of 5% and reduction of sibling discount to 10% for all kids (currently sibling discount is 20% for second child, 30% for third and above); 2) 5% tuition increase with reduction to 10% sibling discount phased in over three years with 15% and 25% sibling discount for 2019-20; 3) 5% tuition increase with reduction to 10% sibling discount phased in over two years with 10% and 20% sibling discount for 2019-20.</p> <p>Enrollment has increased since the budget was discussed in November from 417 to 426.</p> <p>Discussion of reduction of number of students at Waldorf sister schools.</p>			
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	<p>Darryl: Where is acknowledgement in tuition models of the number of students who would leave SWS due to tuition increase?</p> <p>Andrew: It was considered.</p> <p>Question regarding whether leaving sibling discount alone was modeled?</p> <p>Andrew: Yes, but that was not the recommendation. Full paying parents are supporting all those on TA. Reducing sibling discount makes the model more means-based.</p> <p>Note made that the models with sibling discount reduced contain an increase in amount allocated to TA of approximately \$75K</p> <p>Public Comment: 2 minutes per speaker</p> <p>Quentin: (given 8 minutes). Discusses his written recommendations which he is submitting to the BOT</p> <p>Megan Cheatham: Can't make school choice for sure because tuition is not set here and I can't feel safe that I can stay.</p> <p>Colin Gregg: SWS could use a CFO to aid in financial decision making.</p> <p>Melissa Rainsford: Sibling discount was crucial in our choice of school. Tuition letters went out 1/14. Enrollment at public schools closed on 1/18.</p> <p>Discussion of sibling discount and tuition at Live Oaks and other Waldorf schools.</p> <p>Andrea: SWS is the second most expensive HS in the area. Jesuit e.g is \$5k cheaper than SWS. I suggest 5% tuition increase but leave sibling discount in place.</p>			
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	<p>Isaac Joerger: SWS will lose families if tuition increase stays in place. Let's leave sibling discount alone.</p> <p>Dylan: I'm not hearing the BOT's long-term strategy.</p> <p>Adrian: If we're not in a crisis we shouldn't act like it either. Have we tried to increase HS enrollment? BOT needs to be in the community.</p> <p>Kelly: Suggestions: 1) Putting grant participation button on re-enrollment to qualify SWS for grants that require 100% participation; and 2) make volunteer hours mandatory;</p> <p>Yianni:</p> <p>Unknown male: discussion of Parent Guild brainstorming session.</p> <p>Sharma:</p> <p>Ted Bosque:</p> <p>Husband of SWS teacher Mrs. Schneider: We should use our kitchen to make money; SWS should have a portrait of Steiner in the school.</p> <p>Maylynn Ortega:</p> <p>Jennifer [Grant?] [3 kids in the HS]:</p> <p>Dan Martinez [3rd & 1st grade parent]: Prefer certainty (sibling discount) over uncertainty (TA).</p>			
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	<p>BOT discussion</p> <p>Lawrence: Motion: For 2019-20 a 5% tuition increase with 15% sibling discount for one student and a 25% sibling discount for two and more. Motion seconded.</p> <p>Discussion by BOT members; motion approved.</p>	<p>For 2019-20 a 5% tuition increase with 15% sibling discount for one student and a 25% sibling discount for two and more.</p>		
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These Minutes are not an official record of the meeting of the Board of Trustees until signed by an officer of the Board.

Signed: 
 Andrew Jensen, President

Date: 2/28/19