

Minutes
SSCS School Council Meeting

Audio Link: <https://sscs.webex.com/sscs/jdr.php?RCID=d943a899ba60cf35b7b2ec6bc9d24d25>

Thursday
6:00 PM
4/24/14

SSCS Admin Office
2452 El Centro Blvd.
East Nicolaus, CA. 95659

1 CALL TO ORDER at 6:11 pm

2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME/ROLL CALL Corporate Officers present: Eric Schoffstall, Executive Director: Compliance, District Relations and School Services, Cynthia Rachel, Corporate Secretary, Brenda Christensen, School Council Secretary. Arlie Capps, IEM legal counsel. Eleven members were present: Courtney Adams, Janine Campos, Kristy Hollingshead, Emily James, Heather Jones, Nicole McCulloch, Richard Mize, Jean Ping, Anne Marie Robbins, Lacie Robertson, and Rebecca Rodriguez.

4. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public may be heard on any item. A person addressing the Council will be limited to 3 minutes, unless the Site Administrator grants a longer period of time. Comments by members of the public on an item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Council.

- John Wilberger, Parent, spoke in support of South Sutter (SS) flexibility and parental choice. As an Innovative Education Management (IEM) employee, he spoke regarding the favorable support IEM receives from our sponsoring district as well as from Sharon McIntosh, Superintendent/Principal of Marcum Illinois Elementary School.
- Brandy Anderson, Education Specialist (ES) with SS and Parent, commented on the California Department of Education (CDE) letter that went out. Recently hired as IEM Curriculum and Guidance Director, he encouraged parents to contact him with ideas and suggestions to meet the challenges of CDE.
- Raenette Kilthau, ES with SS and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Coordinator, explained WASC accreditation process.
- Starr Palumbo, ES with SS, spoke in support of SS's flexibility, resources for at-risk students, and support from staff and co-workers.
- Jennifer Freeman, ES Advisor, ES, and Parent with SS, called up and introduced herself and the following as the ones that operate as administrators for the school: Shana Anderson, parent, ES and advisor, Michelle Johnson Advisor SSCS & SMCS, Tracy Edwards, Teacher Services Director SS, and Valorie Kirjola, Advisor SS.
- Michelle Johnson, ES Advisor, SS and Sky Mountain Charter School (SMCS), spoke regarding meeting the needs of ESs and students from a remote location.

- Susan Fleming, ES with SS, commented on the need for good advisors who are able to be there for their ESs should the need arise.
- Andrea Schrimp, Parent with SS, spoke concerning truancy policy if an ES was sick.
- Glenda McBride, Parent, spoke regarding management issues that arose during last meeting as something that should be between advisors and ESs. She stated that the locations of ESs and advisors were not a concern to her.
- Beth Ward, ES with SS, commented on effects of a negative ES/Advisor relationship, and cultural differences between northern and southern California.
- Kristy Hollingshead, Parent and Council member, commented on her positive experience with an Advisor during a personal crisis her ES experienced.
- Nancy Perkins, HR assistant IEM, spoke regarding IEM's constant changes over the years due to needs of ESs, parents, and students.
- Samantha Devore, Parent, commented on concerns brought up at last meeting pertaining to transparency, parent directed voice, and ideals and values of local vs. long distance advisors.
- Shauna Anderson, ES Advisor, ES, and Parent, spoke regarding culture of fear among ESs, policy changes regarding Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs), and eliminating identity requirement on questions being asked at AF meetings.
- Melissa Valdez, Assessment Department, IEM, spoke regarding the need to come together to find solutions regarding letter from CDE, communication, and accountability of a public school in relation to testing in a parent driven school.
- Susan Hulett, ES with SS, spoke regarding culture of fear, lack of team environment between ESs and IEM, and top down decision making.
- Tracy Edwards, Director of Teacher Services and ES for SS, addressed restructuring, top down decision making, and distance of advisors.
- Nancy Mackenroth, Parent, explained that she forgot to bring her friend's statement she had planned to read regarding her friend's experience with opting out of testing, commented on staff changes and hiring of out of the area advisors since Shana Fisk was hired, bucket filling and dipping, and the value of face to face meetings/relationships between ESs and parents vs. the effectiveness of long distance advisors.
- Tammy Wellendorf, ES with SS, asked the board to address state disability.
- Teri Alves, ES with SS and Guidance Counselor, commented on the amount of time spent on WASC, letter from CDE, IEM, teachers, and culture of fear during last meeting, the need to focus on improving student performance, the need to support our teachers, previous lack of response from staff regarding issues at Area Facilitator (AF) meetings, WASC goal setting, local accountability.
- Susie Clark, Executive Director at IEM, spoke regarding privacy of HR issues, apologized for the lack of timeliness of CDE letter, changes to truancy policies, PIPs, acknowledgement of fear culture, and desire to see discussion of restructuring on the agenda.
- Lisa Voss, ES for SS, Title III Coordinator for all 4 IEM schools, stated that she felt the culture of fear what not school wide, saw positive changes regarding policies now clearly written out, locations of advisors personally not being a concern, and the need for collecting variety of information for WASC visits.

- Noah Mackenroth, former SS employee, spoke regarding founders, previous directors, implementation and restructuring of new administration, a revisioning of the school, and resigning in protest.
- Janine Campos, Parent and Council member, spoke regarding the role of the Parent Council, her concerns with IEM policies regarding test results affecting 25% of grades and a-g requirements for all students. She asked that lack of control and influence of the Parent Council be on record for fear of being sued. Cyndi Rachel informed the board those policies were not from IEM and the parent council does not have the level of liability to be sued like a school district board. The parent council's level of liability only pertains to items within their jurisdiction.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of the February 21, 2014 minutes

Rebecca Rodriguez motioned to approve the February 21, 2014 minutes.

Courtney Adams seconded the motion.

Nicole McCulloch asked to amend the minutes to include statements from Noah Mackenroth and Gail Dilka.

Approval of February 21, 2014 minutes passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

B. Approval of the February 25, 2014 minutes

Kristy Hollingshead motioned to approve the February 25, 2014 minutes.

Anne Marie Robbins seconded the motion.

Approval of February 25, 2014 minutes passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

C. Approval of the April 8, 2014 minutes

Janine Campos motioned to approve the April 8, 2014 minutes.

Lacie Robertson seconded the motion.

Approval of April 8, 2014 minutes passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

6. CLOSED SESSION--Carryover from 4/8/14

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (Two Cases)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Arlie Capps reported it was the decision of the Parent Council that the [School Improvement Plan](#), [District Letter of Support](#), and the [South Sutter Charter School All ES Training Survey Results](#) be released for public consideration. The Closed Session will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and no further action was taken at this time.

7. REPORT RE COMPLIANCE WITH THE BROWN ACT--Carryover from 4/8/14

Cyndi Rachel recapped the reason our meetings went to public based on Teleconference requirements that we recently became aware of and reported that our Parent Council opted to have a public place to meet in person.

8. HR REPORT

Steven Ward reported on email sent to staff regarding culture of fear, confidential nature of current investigation, age discrimination, history of termination, Uniform Complaint Procedure, history of employee Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), and new guidelines for PIPs. Janine Campos requested that all PIPs be removed.

A. Uniform Complaint Policy: <http://www.sscs.cc/files/southsutter/policies/UniformComplaintProcedureforSSCS.pdf>

Janine Campos motioned to approve the Uniform Complain Policy.

Anne Marie Robbins seconded the motion.

Approval of the Uniform Complaint Policy passed by 10 votes to none with 1 abstention.

B. Report regarding process in response to personnel concerns

Steven Ward addressed the misuse of PIPs and said he'd research the process to remove PIPs. He addressed the request for state disability, explained the majority opted not to have state disability, and offered to revisit that again.

9. REPORT ON INDEPENDENT STUDY

A. Guidelines for use of Skype or FaceTime for Learning Record meetings

Eric Schoffstall commented on a report earlier in the meeting regarding 2 policies that IEM was said to have been responsible for. One required a-g for all students and the other was 25% of assessment was part of the student's grade. He wanted to go on record and state that IEM did not put those policies into play. When those policies did come to IEM, they were immediately stopped. He believes the 25% is still in play and will research that. He then reported on the Independent Study Policy the parent council voted in and explained that "face to face" meetings are valued, but the policy was revised to accommodate families experiencing catastrophic difficulties. Eric is currently working with Teacher Services Directors to accommodate ESs experiencing catastrophic situations as well.

10. ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT

Melissa Valdez reported on the truancy policy. Janine Campos requested Melissa's statement regarding the reevaluation of the truancy policy to go on record. This policy is currently being looked at by IEM. Cases are now being looked at individually.

11. DISCUSSION OF PARENT COUNCIL ROLE IN SSCS GOVERNANCE

Discussion of Parent Council Role in SSCS Governance was tabled due to length of meeting and will be addressed at next parent council meeting.

12. DISCUSSION OF THE BYLAWS

Anne Marie Robbins motioned to form a committee to revise the Bylaws.

Jean Ping seconded the motion.

The following parent council members volunteered to revise the Bylaws: Nicole McCulloch, Anne Marie Robbins, Richard Mize, Lacie Robertson, Janine Campos, and Kristy Hollingshead.

Approval to form a committee to revise the Bylaws passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

13. NEW PARENT COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Lacie Robertson motioned to extend the current members of the board for one more year as a one-time exception.

Nicole McCulloch seconded the motion.

Approval to extend the current members of the board for one more year as a one-time exceptions passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

Heather Jones motioned to approve Nancy Mackenroth to the Parent Council.

Kristy Hollingshead seconded the motion.

Jean Ping stated her concern with having Nancy Mackenroth on the board while the board was in the middle of a case discussing Noah Mackenroth. Arlie confirmed that Nancy would have to step away from any discussions related to her Noah.

Janine Campos motioned to add a stipulation to include that Nancy would step away from any discussions related to her husband due to conflict of interest.

Kristy Hollingshead seconded the motion.

Approval of appointing Nancy Mackenroth to the Parent Council passed by 6 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

Rebecca Rodriguez motioned to approve Andrea Schrimp to the Parent Council.

Lacie Robertson seconded the motion.

Approval of appointing Andrea Schrimp to the Parent Council passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

The council members chose to vote on appointment of potential council members who were in attendance.

The council chose not to vote on appointments of those who were unable to attend. This was decided based on the need to have all parent council members available to meet in person, rather than calling in remotely.

Heather Jones motioned to approve Jennifer Pendley, Katie DeVore, and Robert Vila to the Parent Council.

Rebecca Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Approval of appointing Jennifer Pendley, Katie DeVore, and Robert Vila to the Parent Council passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

Patrick Salo asked if there were any vacant seats left on the Parent Council.

Beth Ward, ES, endorsed Patrick Salo.

Lacie Robertson motioned to approve Patrick Salo to the Parent Council.

Anne Marie Robins seconded the motion.

Approval of appointing Patrick Salo to the Parent Council passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

14. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL OFFICERS

Eric Schoffstall announced the receipt of written resignations from Becky Cote as the board President, and Cynthia Rachel as the board Secretary. The administrator has appointed Cynthia Rachel as President, Brenda Christensen as Secretary, and Kirstine Bowers as Treasurer.

Heather Jones motioned to approve the School Council Officers.

Rebecca Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Approval of the School Council Officers passed by 11 votes to none with 0 abstentions.

15. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND AGENDA

- Next meeting tentatively scheduled for June
- Role of Council Member from item #11
- Report back from Steven Ward regarding personal concerns
- Bylaws committee
- Closed Session
- Scantron
- Special Education changes
- Restructure
- Present the Local Control Accountability Plan

16. ADJOURN

Meeting officially adjourned at 11:50 pm