

Charter School of Morgan Hill



Board of Director Minutes

Nov. 5, 2002

Closed session began at 6:40 PM

Open sessions began at 7: 35 PM

Board Members Present: John Varela, Myles Taketa, Cinda Meister, Sharon Sousa, Paige Cisewski, and Lynn Mitoma

Also in attendance: Joy Moody (staff rep alternate), Debbie Hargadon, and Noreen Bergin

Absent: Mary Smathers, Marcy Tomsheck, and Claudette Beaty

Late arrival: Elaine Feeny

Guest Presentations:

6th Grade – A committee of 6th grade students presented a power point presentation to request Board approval to attend the Mount Hermon Interdisciplinary Outdoor Science Program, in Felton, CA. from March 24 – 28. They presented the goals of the Science Program itself, and then went into their fundraising program to help defray the costs of the trip. There are 28 sixth graders with a camp cost of \$223 per student.

They have created a “Favorite Places in Morgan Hill” 2003 calendar that they are seeing through production and plan to sell for \$10. If they sell all the calendar’s they have produced, a profit of \$5,577 will be realized which would help to greatly offset the cost of the camp.

In order to get their fundraising project off the ground, they are requesting to borrow \$2,000 from the school to cover the upfront production cost.

7th Grade presentation – Mr. Cross presented his request for the 7th graders to attend a Marine Science Adventure Camp at Catalina Island. (He spoke in terms of San Clemente Island, but that was a mistake. It IS on Catalina Island) Cost per student is \$320. (without the cost of bus transit). He did not have a fundraising plan in place as he is delegating it to a parent committee. Several of them had expressed that they would rather not be bothered with major fundraising, but would just pay.

This camp is best for 7th grade as it fits the Science Standards for 7th grade. See the attached handout.

The additional positive regarding these two field trips is that they are both scheduled for the exact same week. Since Mr. Cross and Mrs. Price split time with both classes, it is best for them to both be gone at the same time. This eliminates the need for substitute teachers.

Math Curriculum Committee Progress Report – by Mrs. Melinda Price. Mrs. Price presented a Math Rubric that the committee has prepared to evaluate the math curriculums that are being reviewed. The rubric is meant to provide objective staff wide input regarding each curriculum that is reviewed.

Cisewski suggested that something is included in the curriculum that shows students are able to write about math. Price requested that she become part of the committee to help offset some of the strong opinions of members of the math committee. Mrs. Price was looking for some direction from the Board as to whether they want a standards based curriculum with a PBL compliment or vice versa. Price stated she was having a hard time getting the PBL based sales reps to return her calls, so as of this date have still had nothing to review on PBL based products. If the staff and committee find something they want, will there be funding to purchase it?

The Board responded stating they would like to have a recommendation from the committee. Agreement was reached between all that the curriculum needs to be balanced between PBL and drill and kill, so that we stay with the vision of the school. It was also agreed that the chosen curriculum does NOT have to be approved as CA state adopted, as long as it approved by the National Math _____ then the staff will make certain that we cover the CA state standards ourselves.

Regarding funding, when a recommendation is ready, it will have to be an agenda item to vote on approval of funding.

Public Comment:

Two guests were in attendance: Arceli Bell, Music and Drama instructor; and Jill Weightman, Art Instructor

From Mrs. Weightman – Refer to the handout given at the meeting. Mrs. Weightman is frustrated about the number of hours she feels she donates to the school in order to present her ART program. ART and MUSIC / DRAMA instructors are currently paid a flat rate to cover the hours they are assigned. She also is frustrated with so few funds that she cannot implement a curriculum.

Mrs. Bell – (refer to her handout presented at the meeting), has the same frustrations about hours donated vs. paid. Her point is drama productions are very time consuming.

Varela thanked them for their candid presentations and requested that they work out any further issues with Mrs. Sousa. The Board would look to Mrs. Sousa for recommendations for any changes

Comments regarding Board Packet

None

Action Items

Approve 6th grade science field trip: **ACTION** from Varela: We need to know what the liability issues to the school would be. Present the language of exactly what type of insurance coverage we carry at the next meeting.

Sousa motioned approval of this trip. Meister seconded. Approved 7 – 0

Taketa brought up the questions of financing the Calendar effort. They requested \$2,000 from the Bank, and they are not in a position to issue and unsecured loan. Paige moved that the School loan \$2,000 to the sixth graders. Mitoma seconded. All approved 7 – 0

ACTION: Smathers will advance the funds to an account set up the CSMH sixth graders at South Valley National Bank. The Bank will issue statements to the sixth grade and they will actually submit payment with interest to the Bank, so the loan is “blind” to the sixth grade. Moneys will be transferred back once the debt has been repaid.

Approve 7th grade science field trip: Less detail given in the presentation. Motion by Taketa to approve with conditions. Varela seconded. Approved 7 – 0.

Conditions to be met by 7th grade:

- The Board prefers they charter a bus vs. having many parents driving students to Los Angeles in the middle of the night. Assumption was made that it would add approximately \$50 per student to the fees.
- More adults than 3 needs to attend. Board would prefer a 5 to 1 rations of adults to students.
- What is the plan for help for behavior and or emergency situations?
- Board needs to see information on San Clemente trip, not Santa Catalina. This has been resolved as the trip IT to Santa Catalina Island, and NOT San Clemente Island.

ACTION to David Cross: confirm the contingencies as soon as is possible, but before Dec. 3 Board Meeting.

Approve board presentation procedures: - see attachment in Board Packet.

Meister motioned to rename this document to Board meeting Procedures Policy. Mitoma seconded. Approved 7 – 0.

ACTION: Hargadon to prepare speaker cards and pass to Mitoma for review.

Review and approve Staff Handbook Sections: Taketa motioned we approved the following sections as recommended by Sousa. Cisewski seconded. Approved 7 – 0.

Approved Staff Handbook Sections: Welcome, Purpose, Section 1, Section 2, Section 3, Section 9, Section 10, Section 12, and Section 14. (Note: Section 13 was NOT approved at this time.)

Approve revised policy on communication sent home: Discussion was initiated around what MHUSD does as a flyer policy. They only allow distribution of non-profit items only, and the distributing organization must produce all copies and deliver all flyers to each school covered.

Sousa suggested it could be from a “for profit group” if the school has planned it. Such as the Chevy’s fundraising or the Clos La Chance wine weekend – see flyer in the Board packet. Was also agreed that we could post for profit flyers on the Hall bulletin board if it was related to something that could benefit our students or families.

ACTION– work on wording to revise again.

Discussion items:

Enrichment/School Schedule and Plan for Improvement. After discussing the enrichment programs in place and ideas for change, Varela suggested that an action team be put together to help put a new plan in place. It should consist of teachers, staff members and board members. Varela would like to see a recommendation by next week with implementation by Nov. 18. All were in agreement. Cisewski, Bergin, Mitoma, Meister, and Elaine Feeny volunteered for the committee. The goal is to come up with a program and plan without considering the players. They are to work within the current budget. The Committee could come forward with a proposal for more funding, if that is what is required. They must submit a schedule and plan as a final output.

Staff development schedule for the 2002 –2003 school year. See attached schedule submitted by Sousa

Mission/Vision discussion topic

Community connection: Meister stated that Morgan Hill Country School is doing a parent training in January 2003. We may be able to tag along into that.

Someone also brought up Gavilan Hills Academy and a project that they have for 8th graders to learn what it is like to work in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM. Next meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2002 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hargadon
Administrative Assistant.

for Sharon Sousa
Board of Director's Secretary