



# Approved Minutes

**Parent Guild Meeting**  
 450 W. East Ave, Chico Ca 95926

**When: Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 5:30 p.m.**  
**Where: Mrs. Ginney's 3rd grade classroom**

**Council Attendees:**

✓ Chris Grettum – Chair/K Columbine/Susan	✓ Bernadette Ross – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Elsa K.	✓ Caryl Brown – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Barbara O.
✓ Portia Ceruti – Co Chair (Parent Member)	x Summer O’Neil – K. Lavender/ Melissa	✓ Elizabeth Jennings – 4 <sup>th</sup> Carol F.
✓ Karin Fisk - Secretary	✓ Susie Nightowl – K. Tiger Lily / Sarah	x Amanda Rose – 5 <sup>th</sup> Shannon O.
✓ Julie Quinn – Treasurer (Parent Member)	x Nicole Meyers – 1 <sup>st</sup> Brianna L	✓ Maria Amatuccio – 6 <sup>th</sup> Alexia A.
✓ Dan La Bar – Assistant Director	✓ Erica Charlesworth – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Natalie W.	✓ Sarah Pape – 7 <sup>th</sup> Nicole B.
✓ Heather Altfeld – Charter Council Rep.	x Jessica Hunt – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rebecca G.	✓ Martin Schwabe - 8 <sup>th</sup> Edward P.
x TBD – Faculty Rep.	✓ Monica McDaniel Berg – K. Calendula	x Kelly Angel – Parent Member
✓ Heather Jensen – 1 <sup>st</sup> Kylee K.	Rose / Claudia	

✓ = present x = absent

<b>1. Opening</b>	1.1 Meeting called to order at: <u>5:45</u> 1.2 Roll Call/Quorum (10): Yes 1.3 Agenda Modifications: No, but school reports were later approved to switch agenda items 6.1 and 6.2.										
<b>2. School Verse</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>This is our school</td> <td>Love of one another</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May peace dwell here</td> <td>And love of life itself</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May the rooms be full of contentment</td> <td>Let us remember</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May love abide here</td> <td>That as many hands build a house</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Love of our school</td> <td>So, many hearts build a school</td> </tr> </table>	This is our school	Love of one another	May peace dwell here	And love of life itself	May the rooms be full of contentment	Let us remember	May love abide here	That as many hands build a house	Love of our school	So, many hearts build a school
This is our school	Love of one another										
May peace dwell here	And love of life itself										
May the rooms be full of contentment	Let us remember										
May love abide here	That as many hands build a house										
Love of our school	So, many hearts build a school										
<b>3. Public Comments</b>	<p><b>3.1 Parents for Change</b> – a group of experienced parents, spoken for by Caryl Brown, present a report (attached) describing the process this group, referring to themselves (in the attached document) as a “sub-committee,” went through to hire a private investigator. In an effort to honor the teaching staff, this group hired the investigator to facilitate direct communication between the teaching staff and the Charter Council, which before this time was attempted with no avail. More teachers were tempted to leave than the ones who left at the end of last school year and this seemed unacceptable. These teachers were afraid to speak out in fear of losing their jobs.</p> <p>Excerpts from their comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We love our school and our school community.</li> <li>2. We were advised to hire a private investigator by a respected and trusted past director of a public Waldorf school, and long time friend of our school.</li> <li>3. The PI's job was solely to take statements from teachers who wanted to share, and report them to the charter council.</li> <li>4. To our knowledge, the PI did not dig nor spy nor coerce.</li> <li>5. Our intention was to provide a mechanism for our teachers to have a voice to the charter council, without fear of retaliation.</li> <li>6. We will continue to work for the good of our school in whatever means we can--on committees, in classrooms, etc.--to facilitate positive change.</li> </ol> <p>Some parents affiliated with the Parents for Change explained their involvement with the group...</p> <p>Bernadette (a member of this group) comments that this was a very difficult process, hard on everyone</p>										

involved.

Sarah Pape (another member) emphasized the importance of direct communication and expressed her intention of taking the issue on seriously and continuing to follow through, though the other members do not wish to continue as an organized group.

Questions:

Wendy: Is the investigator's report available for public viewing?

Heather A. replies that the report was NOT deemed public record by the Charter Council.

Portia: Was there a second report by another investigator?

Heather A. replies that only one report was turned in to the Charter Council.

Dan La Bar comments on the Parents for Change letter and responds with his code of conduct which is: Commitment, Clarity and Consistency (Portia adds Communication). He is continuing his Waldorf education and has worked directly with the secretary of AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America).

Kelly M. asks whether the Parents for Change group will continue?

Sarah P. replies no, but the group moves on.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

**4.1 Fundraising Committee Wendy:** Not too much going on but there's talk of a directory. Carrie is waiting for a bid from a printing company to do this project.

Wendy announces that she will step down and Carrie Gazumel has stepped up to chair this next year.

Portia asks about revenue from the Outlaws game?

Julie replies that she has seen no money, yet. She also reminds the group that eScrip is an annual renewal and still steadily grows as a consistent fundraiser.

**4.2 Garden and Grounds Committee Tighe is not present, so Chris speaks:**

The last work day is August 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

Heather comments that it is important to spread the word by calling people.

Dean mentions that they are slightly behind and looking for skilled workers to assemble the play structure.

Dan offers a budget clarification noting that the school is contributing to the development of the back space.

Carrie mentions that ex-prisoners (and is corrected that some adults in a rehab facility called Jordan Cross Ministries) volunteered their time to help.

It is mentioned that Guy Rents has discounted our rental costs by about \$2,000.

**4.3 Green Committee No Chair present:**

**Julie** states that no money was ever requested for the recycling receptacle project, yet there seem to be recycling receptacles in the classrooms but they still may need the cart for the janitor.

**4.4 Hospitality: No Chair:**

Portia mentions that this committee needs a new chair.

**4.5 Site Maintenance Committee Kelly Munson:**

The project of painting the hallways has come up and therefore has delayed the picture hanger hanging project.

Portia recommends that IF the project is approved that they start in the reception area where the most traffic is.

Julie asks about funding?

Erica suggests fundraising by project.

Kelly reports that the week of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> will be her final task due to work schedule causing trouble for her getting to projects.

Julie asks about blackboard projects, was money ever requested for this approved project?

Kelly can't remember but may have turned in a receipt for reimbursement.

**4.6 Library Holly not present.**

**4.7 Acorn Jenny Johnston:**

Nothing new. The deadline for the next issue is the 24<sup>th</sup> of August for publishing on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

One Call/email Now is unable to attach that much information. Dean suggests that file size be reduced.

Karin mentions emailing the link to the pdf posted on the website would take up no memory and serve the same purpose.

#### **4.8 Outreach Committee Dean Fairbanks:**

At 377-380 students, there was no need to reach out to bring more students in. World music Fest Sept 18-19, Blue Oak usually does face painting, but since it is the weekend before the Harvest Festival, maybe this could be looked at?

November 16<sup>th</sup> (a Tuesday) is the annual Kindergarten Fair. Blue Oak has historically been present with a table and information about Waldorf.

Historically, the Kindergarten Lottery has been held in March and Dean suggests it be considered in February, like the other schools, so parents don't have to wait and potentially not have a place for their kids.

Advertising in Schooltime requires 1 week notice for the ER and runs on Thursday. KZFR requires 2 weeks for advertizing.

CNR is also an option.

#### **4.9 Inreach Erica Charlesworth:** Will be stepping down as Chair after this term.

4.9.1 Drafts of the Parent Orientation are circulated to the Council with a script. Erica explains the purpose of the orientation is to familiarize parents with how the school works. There is a form included asking for contact information and committee sign ups. This is meant to encourage volunteers.

This is proposed to be presented at the first class parent meeting.

Dan and Dean request that the Handbook be referenced in order to provide consistent verbiage.

Will the document be emailed or hard copy? Erica replies, yes to both. We want to make this available to everyone in as many formats as possible.

Caryl asks were the forms are to be turned in and be when? Erica asks that they be collected the night they are distributed and the new class rep will be responsible for collecting them as well as making sure that all parents receive the form and turn it in.

Kelly suggests having a partner help collect the forms by watching the door and collecting them on the way out.

Maybe have a manila envelope at the front desk? The PG basket?

Carrie asks if we should charge for the Handbook because it makes people value it more when they've paid for it.

The new class rep will be appointed when the past rep has presented the orientation. Past rep is the facilitator of the process of appointing parents to jobs.

It is suggested that we list the person's name on the bottom of the forms where they are to be turned in.

Chris comments that this is valuable information.

Maria asks about there being 2 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes and 4 Kindergarten reps. How will they transition?

Maria offers to help collect the forms.

4.9.2 Directory. Erica would like to put a of the class phone trees together to create an all school directory perhaps including business cards for parents who would like to put their business name out there. It has been suggested that this be a fundraiser possibly by the Harvest Festival. Dean suggests CSUC design it for free as a project, they always need projects like this. Will email Jenny to pass this on to Erica.

Heather A recommends CAVE, EOP, etc. as potential volunteers the school could tap for other projects. Caryl suggests a disclaimer to communicate that the directory is not being used for the sale of parents' personal information.

Dan emphasizes the rules for public schools are different than private, which is where the sample being passed around is from.

Carrie is asked about whether the cost of printing and she reiterates that Inland hasn't returned her call yet about printing it for free.

Chris thanks Erica for her continued service.

Portia passes around notes from one of the first meetings, hand written by Erica about the orientation/volunteer sign-up sheets. This has been a long road getting to where we are and we

have Erica to thank.

#### **4.10 Events Summer O'Neill not present:**

Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> is an Events Committee meeting at 12:30pm regarding the Harvest Festival. This is a community building event based in gratitude.

The suggested date for this event is September 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:30pm to avoid serving 400-600 people a meal. Baked items, juice and fruit will be available for sale.

Suzie asks whether the food made the most money in the past? It is agreed that though the soup barely happened last year, suggests we simplify and make fewer varieties, considering the size of the school has increased dramatically.

Heather J. suggests that each grade get a project.

Heather A reminds the group that upper grades have a hard time finding parents to help.

It is suggested that projects be appointed which the upper grade students can do.

Bernadette suggests they serve food.

Suzie suggests the appointment of tasks be age and skillset appropriate.

Maria adds that delegating is good and sign-ups don't seem to work. Classes should volunteer for what they want to do.

Heather A says having the upper grades help is a great idea.

Elizabeth adds that free choice, not necessarily by class, maybe sub-committees for the event would make sense.

Sarah P. remembers the first Harvest Festival and emphasizes the importance of the tradition of gathering natural items with kids for crafts. It is a time to come together and create new traditions.

Martin thanks Summer in her absence for the beautiful graduation ceremony.

Portia mentions the events board (in the reception area).

#### **4.11 History (Sarah Pape):**

Sarah is stepping toward focusing just on the yearbook and not chairing the committee.

Martin mentions that the yearbooks were great.

Sarah says she doesn't know how she became chair.

Portia mentions that the only reason Sarah was chair is that Portia appointed her.

#### **4.12 Parent Volunteer Coordinator Jessica Hunt:** No report.

#### **4.13 Election Chris Grettum:**

Class rep elections only need to happen if 2 or more people want to be the class rep and no one will step aside.

If there is an election required, it must be done by 12:30 the Friday before the PG meeting. These reps will be voting members of the Parent Guild

Next PG meeting is the election meeting and Chris would like any people who want to run from an office to put their name in the hat (or let him know) 1 week before the meeting.

A more formal document will be emailed next week from Portia regarding elections.

## **5. Class Reps**

### **5.1 Class Representatives:**

Erica asks whether "One Call" emails were being passed on?

Dan replies yes, but new parents aren't in the system, yet.

It I asks whether the "one Call" email system will allow us to change the "from" and the answer is no. Sarah requests that student Council attend PG meetings, perhaps sending a liaison. Martin mentions this could work toward their volunteer hours.

Portia mentions that there is a formal position like this is the Bi-Laws already.

Kelly mentions that she advises the CSUC student council and would like to be involved.

Sarah replies that she would like to maintain the role leading the group but would welcome and had thought to invite guests to their meetings, like Julie, Treasurer, to talk about finance.

## 6. School Reports

**6.2 Charter Council Heather Altfeld:** Heather plans to hold 2 hours of office hours at the school every week to invite parents to discuss any issues the board might be able to help with. Welcomes Dan La Bar as the Assistant Director. Comments that he has thrown himself into the role, is dedicated and hard working. Heather is trying to bring the Charter Council back to the Waldorf root by reading quotes/invocations at the council meetings. She also proposes a tighter format to the meetings to allow more time for other things. They are currently advertising for the Executive Director position. Screening was extended to August 27<sup>th</sup> due to low number of applicants. Interviews will start immediately. Parents For Chance met with the Charter Council to communicate and address concerns of parents and instructors. Academic Achievement committee will begin this year to help boost our standing with the state and other officials to help ensure that our Charter will be renewed. Regardless of the desires of parents and teachers, we are a public school receiving public funding from the state. STAR scores affect the state of our charter and the board may not legally renew the charter if the scores are below a certain mark. It is a legal issue. Clarifies the magnitude of the academic issue. Additionally, Heather would like to find Waldorf based assessments as well as Intervention programs for students who need it. She encourages all educators to contact her to get on this committee as a standing charter renewal committee. STAR tests will affect the charter funding. There has been discussion on Charter Council size and potentially creating more positions. She encourages attendance and will provide snacks. There are really big decisions being made at these meetings and they are open. The next meeting is Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. She will send a "One Call" email about office hours.

### **6.1 School Administrator Dan La Bar:**

Asks about not requiring a faculty rep. It is noted that faculty rep position was crucial to circulating communication and getting back to the PG. Perhaps Dan could help facilitate this rather than eliminating this position. Dan states that he is merely trying to help lighten the teachers' load. Thanks to parents. He is inspired by how involved the parents are but is concerned about burnout and is hoping to give back to help it balance out by building community. Blue Oak committees are doing a lot and Dan invites the Charter council to participate in committees. Brings up the liability of Events and childcare during events. He would like to formalize childcare. One Call email is a process that takes considerable time (all tolled, 30-45 minutes per email) and is concerned about the parents who don't have access to technology. Portia mentions the process we determined last year of having a class rep print emails for parents with no access. Chris asks whether PG will continue to fund One Call Now as they did last year. Dan replies that this is a good question. Dates:  
9/7 Opening Ceremony 9am  
9/8 All School Meeting 6pm  
10/11 Board of Ed. Visit to school  
10/29 Halloween Celebration  
11/15-11/19 Parent Conferences  
11/23 Pie Spiral  
12/13-17 Festival of Lights  
Winter Concert, Lantern Walk have not been scheduled, yet.

Admin Staff roles have changed: Assistant Director position has (obviously) been added and will attend to the internal needs of the school. Executive Director will attend to external needs such as municipal guidelines being met and the business aspect of running the school. Applicants for this position are based locally and nationally. Charter council is looking to expand admin staff from 7-11 based on a national survey regarding admin:student ratios. 1:52 is way too much and 1:75 is the current standing. Parent support makes it happen, but they are significantly understaffed. Dan has heard that in Waldorf education Administration is a "bad word," but emphasizes that this is a

	<p>PUBLIC Waldorf school and there legally have to be different requirements. The public Waldorf schools are evolving politically.</p> <p>STAR testing results for the school show a typical Waldorf curve which is a straight line up. A gradual gain, starting slow and excelling later.</p> <p>It is his aim to tweak the Waldorf method to boost test scores so we can keep our charter and get funding.</p> <p>Portia asks if there will be childcare offered at the Charter Council Meetings? Not yet, perhaps if it is PG funded? If older kids do it, there needs to be an adult present.</p> <p>Carrie comments that API scores are publicized on the web. Points are discussed.</p> <p>Caryl states that since legally the charter can't be renewed if we don't get at least 5 points of growth, we need more plans for growth.</p> <p><b>6.3 Faculty Rep. None</b></p>
<p><b>Officer Reports</b></p>	<p><b>7.1 Chair Chris Grettum:</b> Recognizes Stephen for 6 years of dedication with the aforementioned ratio and what a huge undertaking that was.</p> <p>All School Meeting Committee Chairs should set up a table for parents to sign up. Perhaps have cookies.</p> <p>Erica asks about Orientation Packets, possibly for sale.</p> <p>Portia and Chris will set up a table.</p> <p>It is suggested that we have a table set up for collecting fees. This is debatable, it may cause difficulty in tracking who has paid and who hasn't. It is decided this should be left up to the Administration.</p> <p>Portia and Cris may talk with Dan about having a table set up at the All School Meeting.</p> <p>Chris suggests a standard meeting time of 6pm. Heather J doesn't like the idea, but others agree there would be better attendance and Karin says she wouldn't have to leave work early.</p> <p>Martin is thanked for his many years of service to the school. This is his last meeting.</p> <p><b>7.2 Co-Chair Portia Ceruti:</b></p> <p>She would like to have a committee chairs meeting Tuesday August 31 at 6pm.</p> <p><b>7.3 Treasurer Julie</b></p> <p>Presents a 2 month report because of the Council's hiatus.</p> <p>See attached report. Rummage sale keep bringing in money and pizza will start up again as school starts.</p> <p>Computer has arrived and will hopefully be loaded with QuickBooks in the next few months.</p> <p>Tighe needs more for the backspace, always, but found additional funding through the school.</p> <p>Portia asks about a June pizza expense and it is explained that the school is billed after the fact and due to the Summertime delay, it was reported later.</p> <p>Dan responds to a question about class earnings: Linda is holding class earnings, but we are revisiting inequality in classes and potential options to alleviate this.</p> <p>Martin mentions Spring Medieval Games and the need to raise money for that. Dan explains that the per student money is being whittled away each year.</p> <p>Julie adds that there is \$644 balance after commitments.</p> <p><b>7.4 Secretary Karin Fisk:</b></p> <p>Thanks to Suzie for the awesome LiveScribe pen which records meeting?</p> <p>Suzie recalls we might need funds in advance for the Harvest Festival. Erica replies that rentals of tables, etc were the biggest cost.</p>
<p><b>Consent Agenda</b></p>	<p><b>8.1 Portia moves and Monica 2nds Approval</b> of Consent Agenda: PG Minutes June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p><b>9.1 Funding Request: Elizabeth</b> to restock the school store.</p> <p>\$175 Heather J. moves and Martin 2nds. Unanimous approval.</p> <p><b>9.2 Parent Guild Orientation: Erica Charlesworth</b></p> <p>Maria and Heather J. offer to buy a case of paper, Martin suggests the copier in the office, Heather offers to make the copies. Portia moves Chris/Monica 2<sup>nd</sup>, Unanimous approval of Up to \$30 for printing, if needed.</p>
<p><b>Close</b></p>	<p>Next Meeting: September 15, 2010 @ 6pm</p> <p>Adjourn time: <u>9pm</u> Moved by Portia and 2nded by Martin, unanimous vote to close the meeting.</p>

