

SKY Academy Venice Board Meeting Minutes 8/20/18 5:00pm

In Attendance:

Michelle Hazeltine, Steve Smith, Jane Chinnaswamy, Angela Steranko, Diane Cogburn, Pat Ryan

Guest: Eric Robinson

Meeting called to order at 5:06pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Eric Robinson was introduced and he talked about school funding, the budget and the vote.

Mr. Robinson excused himself at 5:50pm

A motion by Jane Chinnaswamy was approved to defer the approval from the previous meetings minutes until the next meeting. A second motion was by Michelle Hazeltine.

Steve Smith went over new classes that were being offered at SKY Academy. The new tech classes are going well and also the Spanish classes. These are being taught by Susanne Truesdale. Mrs. Lara Lobosco is teaching 6th grade LA.

Mr. Smith stated that the first period classes are running 15 mins longer to include our newer curriculum, Culture of Kindness.

He stated that lowering in between bells from five to three minutes is allowing for less traffic and gathering in the halls.

Mr. Smith also stated that Ms. Natalie Shea who took over or Kim Grossenbacher as our technology and text book coordinator is doing a great job and she is working along with Mr. Jeremy Singleton to get the new science textbooks up and running for our students.

Mr. Smith also stated that a new mentor program was introduced. All staff members were given 10-12 students to mentor throughout the year, and will be meeting every third Thursday for the first 15 minutes of class. He stated that he wants these students to know that they can come to any of the staff with issues, concerns or just to talk. It is a mixture of sixth, seventh and eighth graders. All teacher mentors will contact the parents of their individual mentees and let them know what the program is about.

Mr. Smith also stated that the Open House will be in September and will be run very similar to the orientations we had in August where the parents will follow their students schedules. It will be September 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Enrollment was also talked about by Mr. Smith stating that Charter School enrollment was down and that Venice Middle numbers were up significantly. The perception from the parents was that of

convenience. It was also brought up that the "field trip" to VMS for incoming sixth graders may aid in the enrollment.

Mr. Smith stated that the cost of the billboards was getting expensive and that they were going to be taken down from the two locations. They run roughly two thousand a month to keep up and visible. Mr. Smith also stated that 2 signs were purchased to place at the front of the school and one out at road (Center Road). They state that we are a four time A school.

SKY Academy is trying to gain the social media aspect with getting information, videos, pictures, etc. Out to the parents and the many followers.

Mr. Smith stated that with the budgets cuts and the absence of an AP we as a school are stepping up and everyone is working as a team. Teachers are working together to get the diagnostics done so that we can get the AEP program up and running.

He also stated that Natalia Shea and Mary Shaw our ESE Liaison are alternating their schedule to split time between Venice and Englewood.

The first week of school went very well and the first Principal's Fun Run was held on Friday August 17th during seventh period and it went extremely well with all students participating and all staff on hand to help throughout the course. We were provided water, oranges and bananas.

On August 27th the Les Mills Company will be coming to the YMCA to train its staff and they will be spending a couple hours in the morning talking to our SKY Academy Students. It was brought to attention to try and promote this through Social media and the local Venice Gondolier.

The Spaghetti Dinner put on by our 8th grade Ambassadors and will take place on Thursday Oct 18th. The Scholastic Book Fair will also coincide during this week so we will be promoting this also through Social Media.

Mr. Smith stated that the fitness Center is currently adding equipment and weights.

Board Members stated that more events happening at SKY need to be advertised more in the Gondolier for better exposure. These press releases are free and do not cost anything.

Board Member Michelle Hazeltine asked who would be taking over the Ambassador Program with Michelle Sooklal not returning. Mr. Smith stated that Wendi Dunalp and Erica Raymond would be working with them. Mrs. Hazeltine stated that this program needs to continue.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jane Chinnaswamy; 2nd was made by Michelle Hazeltine.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:17pm

Next Meeting Monday October 22, 2018

Minutes taken by Erica Raymond