



The Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School

Minutes

ROLES Governance Council Meeting

Class Structure and Lottery

Date and Time

Monday June 29, 2020 at 7:00 AM

Location

meet.google.com/qnx-pqnt-hph
OR by phone 802-466-2718 PIN: 440 604 081#

Directors Present

Ami Rosengren (remote), Amy Levash (remote), Becky Wollner (remote), Cecilia Guajardo (remote), Dan Davis (remote), Mia Arter (remote)

Directors Absent

Mary Ann Christopher

Guests Present

Alyssa Greymont, Angela Berend, Ashley Gauger (remote), Brian Fortney, Chris Petersen, Christina Knoske, Christopher Biertzer, Courtney Finn, Elizabeth Clark, Greta Malek, Jared Arter, Korinne Haeffel, Laura Wollershiem, Monica Ammerman, Monica Skwierawski, Moriah Butler, Sara Christy, Sarah Barron, Sarah Fortney, Sarah Neumann, Sunny Knutson (remote), Taylor Hoge, Tera Rogers

I. Opening Items

A. Welcome, Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Mia Arter called a meeting of the board of directors of The Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School to order on Monday Jun 29, 2020 @ 7:03 AM at meet.google.com/qnx-pqnt-hph
OR by phone 802-466-2718 PIN: 440 604 081#

C. Agenda Overview

Mia gives an overview of the Agenda. A change of order from the agenda - lottery will be discussed first, then class structure, and so on.

D. Approve June 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Cecilia Guajardo made a motion to approve the minutes from ROLES Governance Council Meeting on 06-09-20.

Amy Levash seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approve June 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Cecilia Guajardo made a motion to approve the minutes from ROLES Governance Council Meeting on 06-12-20.

Amy Levash seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Proposed ROLES Class Structure Policy

A. Review Proposed ROLES Class Structure Policy

Mia gives a background of the class structure proposal and documents sent out for review.

Ashley Gauger gives an overview of the class structure document that was in the meeting packet.

- Ashley has a background in multi-age classes and feels strongly that this is the direction we should head.
- After last year's experience it is agreed that kindergarten should be a stand alone grade.
- Ashley shares that the multi-age classroom is what the staff believes will best align with the mission and vision of the school.

Cecilia Guajardo has experience in combined classes and does not agree with the multi-age classrooms proposal.

Amy Levash thinks this could work, with Kindergarten on it's own. 3rd-5th is a concern for the wide range of ages to be combined.

Ashley Gauger:

- The team is committed to working out the kinks.
- She is focused on creating a personalized learning plan for the students.
- Wisconsin State Standards are broken down into a 3rd-5th category.
- Ashley addresses the health growth and development concern for 4th and 5th graders. It is a 2 hour window in each grade, those students would be taught this separately from the other students.

Becky Wollner views the combined classes as too difficult to combine those specific ages. Mia Arter is concerned about moving on this right now, due to other things that are being focused on. She also has a concern that if this model does not work out, it would take too long to undo.

Dan Davis thinks that the complexity of the combined class model is a concern during the early years of the school. The small class sizes and close knit staff give the school an opportunity to mix multi-ages in other formats.

Ashley responds that this will amplify the model but not complicate it. Having a co-teacher and continuing the students with the teacher will create a stronger relationship.

Cecilia brings up concerns:

- Human Growth and Development as an issue because leading up to the video the human body and reproduction system needs to be studied prior.
- Keeping students with a teacher that may not be a good fit for the student.
- How do you do a personalized learning plan with multi-age classes, when it was difficult this year.
- How will they ensure the gaps will be filled.
- It will be a concern if a student has to switch schools.

Monica Skwierawski reads a pro multi-age classroom write-up she prepared. She believes this is the right model for the school, and had a good experience with her K/1 student this year.

Korinne Haeffel has concerns comparing this to a Montessori model, since Montessori teachers have intense training on multi-age. She has reservations about continuing this model due to her experience with the K/1 this past year.

Mia Arter agrees that communication needs to be well executed and maybe now is not the time to use the multi-age class model.

Laura Wollershiem questions what will happen to the families that are on the fence regarding this decision. What is the date families will be informed of the class structure.

Mia suggests having a decision made by the end of July.

Ashley says she will do her best.

A mid-July meeting will be scheduled to review a revised proposal.

B. Adopt ROLES Class Structure Policy

III. FY2020-2021 ROLES Lottery

A. Review ROLES Lottery Error and Correction Options

Ashley gives an overview of the lottery error, which is outlined in the meeting packet. A family submitted their application within the enrollment window through an email box had not been checked, therefore the email was missed. Ashley Gauger followed up with NOSD, the Governance Council, and Nick from WRCCS. After contacting the family, they have decided to withdraw their application from ROLES which results in no need to take any action. Ashley will create a procedure to ensure this error does not happen in the future.

Cecilia Guajardo suggests streamlining the email addresses that are listed on the website and fixing any that are being directed to the incorrect person.

B. Vote on an Option to Correct Lottery Error

The Governance Council votes on Option 3 (in packet)

1st Dan Davis

2nd Cecilia Guajardo

Passed Unanimously 7:19

IV. ROLES Administrator Job Description

A. Review Draft Job Description

Amy Levash gives an overview of the description in the packet. Once this is approved, it will be posted right away from CESA 6.

Amy Levash will be the point of contact for the month of July.

It will initially be posted for 10 days and then can be extended.

Interested parties can contact Amy Levash via email to be on the interview team, she will put her email into the Chat.

Dan Davis noticed curriculum development was missing from the description, suggests adding more tenure, and "mentoring and coaching" as responsibilities.
Amy Levash also suggests adding "School Leader" to the description.
Amy Levash questions the timeline for hiring the Administrative Assistant and Paraprofessionals.
Mia Arter suggests posting the Administrator position first and have them help hire the others, if possible.
CESA 6 has reviewed the job description.
Cecilia questions what will be our Plan B if we do not find the right candidate.
Dan Davis has talked to Mike Mullen, who is willing to help out in the interim if we need a Plan B.
Becky Wollner questions if our DPI budget revisions are not approved, which part would be contingent.
Mia Arter responds that the first part of the job description is the section that would be affected.

B. Adopt School Administrator Job Description

Dan Davis made a motion to Approved with revisions Dan Davis suggested.
Becky Wollner seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. ROLES Updates

A. ROLES Governance Council Member Recruitment

Mia discusses 2 open spots on the Governance Council. Mia is also resigning from the Governance Council. Someone will need to take the lead on the Recruitment committee.

B. Update on 2020-2021 School Year Re-Opening Plan

Re-Opening proposals will be part of the mid-July meeting
Dan Davis says CESA 6 will help draft a plan.
Safety standards are what will help guide the plan.
Our classrooms aren't large enough for extended periods of social distancing, since we are an outdoor school we have the outdoors as a benefit.
First we must decide if the students are coming back in person. Next have CESA 6 create a high level outlook plan to present to Governance Council and parents as a guideline
Ashley suggests reaching out to CESA 1, since that is our district.
Dan Davis has reached out to many upper level school leaders discussing the options.

C. Update on Facilities

Dan Davis states that there is meeting with the Riveredge Nature Center coming up regarding the cleaning procedures.
The work to create the additional classroom will begin in a few weeks to be ready by August.
The building by the yurts will be doubled in size to create the classroom.

D. Updates from Staff

Ashley says the staff is enthusiastic about the plan to get started, including the new staff members.

VI. Other Business

A. Public Comment

The following is the transcript from the Chat function of the meeting:
Harrison Knoske
7:01 AM
Christina Knoske

Sarah Neumann
7:01 AM
Sarah Neumann
Tera Rogers
7:01 AM
Tera Rogers
Sarah Fortney
7:01 AM
Sarah Fortney
Greta Malek
7:01 AM
Greta Malek
Angela Berend
7:01 AM
Angela Berend
Courtney Finn
7:01 AM
Courtney Finn
Laura Wollersheim
7:01 AM
Good morning Laura Wollersheim
Sara Christy
7:03 AM
Sara Christy
Taylor Hoge
7:03 AM
Taylor Hoge
Miranda Petersen
7:04 AM
Korinne Haeffel and Chris Petersen are here (showing in the participant list as Miranda Petersen)
Eric Butler
7:05 AM
Moriah Butler
Brian Fortney
7:09 AM
Brian Fortney
Laura Wollersheim
7:18 AM
Good catch Cecilia!
gregg skwierawski
7:41 AM
If parents are open to comment, I would like to comment on the Multiage Plan (hand raised)
Brian Fortney
7:46 AM
Right!
Greta Malek
7:50 AM
thanks, Dan
Brian Fortney
7:50 AM
Well said, Dan
Brian Fortney
7:52 AM
Assuming you all have your curriculum mapped out, you could collaborate and look for opportunities to align the same content and bring the classes together then for the unit.
Greta Malek

7:53 AM

What if the student-teacher relationship is not a good one?

Miranda Petersen

7:56 AM

Do the teachers consider the 5k/1 model from this past year to be successful? As a parent, I can say my child did not thrive.

Monica Ammerman

7:56 AM

I have to jump off this call at 8. I will follow-up with an email. We chose to send our girls to ROLES bc it IS "outside the box". After speaking with several educator friends, I believe this model could work at ROLES. Like Mia, I have questioned if our kids are "guinea pigs". However, I have great faith and confidence in Miss Gauger after seeing her in the classroom last year. I trust her educated opinion implicitly. As long as students are developing appropriately, we are on board. TY!

Harrison Knoske

8:00 AM

i think we need to decide now to let parent know

Taylor Hoge

8:04 AM

Well said, Monica. Thank you.

Miranda Petersen

8:05 AM

Can I speak?

Korinne

Brian Fortney

8:13 AM

Great point, Laura W.

Sarah Neumann

8:15 AM

Also, new families coming in should be informed of this decision. We found out about combined classes at information night right before school started and that was unacceptable.

Sarah Fortney

8:15 AM

Will the parents get the answers from the parent survey form? Most of them were not answered

Tera Rogers

8:19 AM

Will parents be on the interview committee?

Amy Levash

8:20 AM

amylevash@gmail.com

Harrison Knoske

8:24 AM

Are there 90 students? and are there 5 grades or 6th grades?

Laura Wollersheim

8:35 AM

Thank you for everything you have done, Mia! You have taken this messy transition and made it as smooth as possible.

Miranda Petersen

8:35 AM

Mia, thanks for your leadership.

Greta Malek

8:36 AM

Thank you, Mia.

Sarah Neumann

8:37 AM

Thanks Mia! I totally understand. Thanks for everything you've done!

Taylor Hoge

8:37 AM

Thank you, Mia. All the best to you and yours.

Harrison Knoske

8:42 AM

i have a comment

Harrison Knoske

8:46 AM

i just wanted to say please take into account children are coming from different communities what if there is a spike in cases in one community and not the other?

Greta Malek

8:46 AM

having three classrooms there, is adding a "real bathroom" set-up at that location in the thoughts as well?

Laura Wollersheim

8:47 AM

We are all lucky to be at this outdoor school during a pandemic! Thank you all for your hard work in planning for the return!

Harrison Knoske

8:47 AM

hand washing for the yurts?

i will

Sarah Neumann

8:48 AM

Chrissy, there is handwashing station by the yurts now... as long as that stays there

Miranda Petersen

8:48 AM

Is the cleaning plan taking into account IAQ?

greenSeal.org has great guidelines for safe disinfection.

Harrison Knoske

8:50 AM

prayers for you and your family!

Laura Wollersheim

8:50 AM

YES!

Taylor Hoge

8:50 AM

Well said!

Greta Malek

8:51 AM

Thank you to the Governance Council.

VII. Closing Items

A. Thank You and Conclusion

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mia Arter

Amy Levash made a motion to Adjourn.

Cecilia Guajardo seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.