

EAGLE EYES MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

ATTENDEES: Parents/Guardians: Amy Watson, June McNeil, Chris Sonnier, Joe and Candi Latino, Kattie Nolen, Rosetta Brumfield, Kaedra Arnold, Walker Estes, Lazaro Arce, Yvette Jackson, Laura Gresham, Carolyn Clark
Staff: Robby Porter, Evelyn Castleberry, Laurie Self, Linda Thomas, Liz Moore, Kevin Lemoine, Lorraine Loup, Lisa Cook, Maria Stephens, Trish Mann

AGENDA:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Kevin Lemoine, Liaison to the Board Special Schools, was in attendance. He introduced himself to the group, shared his background and spoke briefly about his management style.

Trish Mann welcomed everyone. Attendees went around the room giving names and association with the school. Trish said that there was a steering committee that had formed after the closing of the school in October, in an attempt to begin a Parent – Staff organization. The first items of business were to elect officers and adopt the proposed by-laws. The steering committee recommended a slate of officers, but any other nominations were welcomed. The offices of President, Vice President and Secretary were suggested. Treasurer is not needed as the LSD Foundation raises funds for the school.

Liz Moore thanked parents and staff for their involvement.

Trish said that the steering committee nominated Chris Sonnier as President. His nomination was moved, seconded and acclaimed unanimously.

Chris presided over the remainder of the meeting, thanked everybody for attending and for their involvement. Chris hopes that the organization will unite parents and staff in support of LSD students.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that the By-Laws be accepted, with the exception of changing any references to “teachers” to “staff.”

Candi Latino was nominated as Vice President. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that Candi be elected. Carolyn Clark was nominated as Secretary. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted that Carolyn be elected.

The attendees divided into groups, based upon their involvement with the school: Elementary, Middle and High School. Each group discussed and listed the “Strengths”

and “Weaknesses” of the school. Results will be used to help determine the direction for this organization.

See lists below.

Reconvening, time ran late and Chris suggested that we determine the next meeting date before attendees needed to leave. It was suggested that we meet on Thursday; so out-of-town parents could attend the meeting, stay on campus overnight and visit with school personnel on Friday. A conflict with this schedule is the sign language classes on Thursday evenings. Scheduling during sign language class breaks may be an option and it will be looked into.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 6:00 pm in the Main Room of the Student Center (interpreting and child care provided)

Suggested for next meeting agenda: Improving communication, form committees, set goals that can be completed by the end of the year.

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BREAKOUT GROUP LISTS
(Copied Verbatim)

ELEMENTARY

STRENGTHS

Open Communication
Some great teachers, they all want the best for the children
Facilities – campus
Holistic approach for special needs students
We have a blank slate – may now have more open communications with Dept. of Education and an opportunity to go forward
Support for PTO Org.

WEAKNESSES/CHALLENGES

Dorm students can’t go anywhere – too restrictive
No social life off campus with hearing, like sports, YMCA
Kids not in dorm don’t get to play sports – Laurie will look into forming 2 teams
Communication with parents – all teachers don’t follow the same procedures – inconsistency
Split classrooms – parents not happy with the way a new class was formed. She felt like she was not listened to.

SUGGESTIONS

When meeting are held, have on Thursday & offer dorm stay to parents.
Laurie will look into 2 teams for baseball

MIDDLE SCHOOL

STRENGTHS

Excellent teachers

Lots of local parents interested in supporting students/teachers

Staff & teachers are interested in the students

WEAKNESSES/CHALLENGES

Not enough independence with new protocols. Not teaching children to behave like adults. Need to look at students as individually with different needs.

Change the rules for volunteers – consider the communication skills of the parent and pair with a person who has good sign skills.

Communication with parents regarding lessons & LDE curriculum

Day students need access to the dorm student activities

HIGH SCHOOL

STRENGTHS

Communication with teachers

On-line Program – JPAMS

Faculty/Staff support with students

Academic improvements

Facilities on campus

Holistic for special needs students

WEAKNESSES/CHALLENGES

Communication – Rarely is positive information communicated, just negative

Dorm students restricted to campus

Sports day – day students can't participate

Poor communication with parents