

Syracuse Arts Academy Work Session Minutes August 2, 2007

Place: Syracuse Arts Academy, 2893 W. 1700 S., Syracuse
Approved: October 4, 2007



In Attendance: Andrea Larkin, Michelle Gibby, Chris Dallin, Charlene Nelson
Excused: Dave Hall
Others in Attendance: Jed Stevenson (AW), Emily Coon (AW)

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

MINUTES

5:20 PM – Call to Order

BUSINESS ITEMS (To be Voted Upon During Board Meeting):

- Jan has requested the board discuss opening a small School Operating Account, similar to having petty cash, so Jan could have access to a school checking account. This will help Jan and her staff to purchase items without requiring a reimbursement.
- Jan has fully staffed the school in all grades, including Shauna Bradford as a music teacher; although, she is still looking for a computer lab teacher. The new teachers are Jessica Frazier (3rd year teacher from Tennessee to teach 1st Grade), Carrie Valez (6 year teacher with a Masters degree coming from Nevada to teach 1st Grade), Donni Baase (5th Grade Teacher).

REPORTS:

- Principal Report – Jan
 - The school is full, there were no difficulties filling the positions through the lottery program. 15 slots opened last week and were filled again in 24 hours.
 - Principal's Goals for 2007-2008
 - Jan intends to focus on improving the test scores for 1st graders moving into 2nd grade this year.
 - Teachers will be asked to write their own professional development plans in direct alignment with student achievement.
 - Students that were proficient on the benchmarks throughout the year also were proficient in the end-of-levels.
 - Jan will use a writing grading program with her students in grades 4-6 that will give immediate scores and feedback to students to prepare them for the Direct Writing Test in 6th grade.
 - Behavior – There are some key areas and times that need improvement. Jan will focus on these two areas this upcoming year. Student monitors will be monitoring the halls during recess times.
 - Jan has been studying recently about students who do not complete their assignments in elementary school and have a very difficult time in junior high, and even more difficult time in high school. Jan will have a

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program called Lunch Bunch where students can receive additional tutoring if they choose to.

- This year, the entire school will learn about “The Senses”. This will be implemented in their curriculum for the entire week. A new topic will be chosen each year.
- Parent Organization – Michelle Gibby
 - The Calendar of Activities for 2007-2008 is on Google.com. A parent does need to register with Google.com to access it, and there is a link to this site from SAA’s website.
 - The Art Auction is tentatively scheduled for March. The Fall Carnival will be November 9th. These will be the major fundraiser projects for the year.
 - The Wal-Mart plastic bag fundraiser earned the school \$6,000 last year!
 - School House Rock, the school’s musical this year, will be in May.
 - New Family Orientation “Newcomers’ Night” will be held on August 16th. This is specifically for new parents and will encourage the new parents of volunteer opportunities.
 - Michelle had a concern about working with UDOT and carpooling, and upcoming construction projects near the school.
- Board –
 - The Budget Update will be postponed until next board meeting due to David Hall’s absence.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (For Discussion Only):

- Michelle has received a bid for the sound system from a local business who did North Davis Prep’s sound system. The cost will be more than the POEC can commit to, the school will need to utilize Shirley Bouwhuis to help raise the additional funds.

ADJOURN: 6:04 PM

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