

Explorations Charter School

71 Spencer Street
Winsted, CT 06097

Governing Council Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2011

Present: Gail Srebnik, JoAnn Hayes, Jerry Rathbun, Frank Thompson, Cheryl Wallace, Dana Forchette, Seth Newton, Joanne Nardi, Bonnie Soloshun and Mary Brevigleiri.

Also present was Susan O'Rourke, Bookkeeper.

Meeting was called to order by Jerry Rathbun at 5:35 PM.

Minutes from November 2011 accepted after a motion by Dana Forchette, seconded by Bonnie Soloshun.

Financial Report accepted after a motion by Mary Brevigleiri, seconded by Bonnie Soloshun. Board would like to see more details for account 4030 Pupil Services, especially regarding the amount that has been billed out so far this year. Susan reported that the ED001C audit has been done for the state.

School News:

- A. Gail had been working with Erin from Ed Connections to prepare documentation for review by the State Dept of Education representatives during their Nov. 22 visit.
- B. State Dept. of Education representatives visited Explorations on Nov. 22. Their agenda was to make sure Explorations knew why they were turned down for the addition of a ninth grade class. They did not review or discuss anything related to what Explorations needs to submit to conform to the State Department's requirements in order to add a ninth grade curriculum.
- C. Gail was not provided with an agenda by the State Department prior to their visit.
- D. Due to school being closed for Storm Alfred, the first semester will end 1 ½ weeks late. Second semester will begin on January 25 instead of January 17, 2012.
- E. Student progress reports went out 1 ½ weeks late due to the storm.
- F. No report was submitted regarding any school disciplinary actions taken since the last meeting, but copies of the school's discipline guidelines were distributed by Gail.

Other Business:

- A. Gail presented the council members with a formal job description for Bill Hallam's new role as vice principal.
 - B. Gail is working on a mandatory Safe School Climate Policy. Seth shared that this policy is a direct result of new legislation aimed at making schools take an active role in preventing bullying. To that end, each school must submit a written policy to the state by January 1. Since our next meeting is not until January 11, 2012, the report will be sent in prior to approval by the council. Gail has emailed other charter schools to obtain a template of their School Climate Plan.
 - C. Larry Shortell, Certified Special Education teacher, has submitted a letter to Gail requesting a 1 year unpaid leave of absence. His plan is to leave in November 2012 and return to his same position at Explorations in August 2013.
 - D. Council approved this unpaid leave of absence after a motion by Mary Brevigleiri, seconded by Bonnie Soloshun.
 - E. Gail explained how Explorations could try to hire someone to take Larry's place during his absence. Since Gail's credentials as a Certified Special Education teacher are current, she can also assume this role during Larry's absence.
 - F. The Community Foundation of Northwest CT awarded \$2750 to Explorations for the purchase of a Smart Board and a combination TV/VCR player.
 - G. Duct work is still ongoing. Should be complete soon.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM after a motion by Frank Thompson, seconded by Dana Forchette to an Executive session.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Brevigleiri, Secretary