



Birchtree Charter School

7107 E Palmer-Wasilla Highway - Palmer, AK 99645

Principal Report for February 5, 2014 APC Meeting

- Attended conference – 12 staff members and the APC Chair attended the Waldorf Conference at Rudolph Steiner College from January 17-19th. Additionally, eight teachers were able to visit other Waldorf Schools in the area. Comments were extremely positive from the participants and the school would like to continue to send participants yearly.
- Signed up for Sofia institute – Currently nine staff members are signed up for a foundation of Waldorf education class through the Sofia Institute. The class will begin on Monday, February 10th.
- School committees – As we continue the move of becoming more teacher-lead, the following committees have been established:

1. Assemblies – Kristin, Amy, Kim, and Misty are on the committee. Kim is the chair of the committee. This committee will be developing a plan for the rest of this year and for next year on how to best allow students to share with other students what they are doing in their classroom. We do have some money if there is need to use AT&T.

2. Budget – Celena, Bill, Brandt, Diep, Susan. Brandt is the chair of this committee. This committee with input from Kelly and me will be making some recommendations to bring to the entire staff. Most of the budget for the school is in teacher/staff salaries and benefits and other areas such as supplies and utilities. However, since we are a charter school we have control over the remaining monies and how to spend those monies. It would be important for this committee to meet by the first week of February.

3. Building – Dan, Amy, Kim, Donna, Bill. Dan is the chair of this committee. This committee will be developing a plan for next school year and the use of space for classrooms. Options may include using portables or rearranging existing space. The APC has a building expansion committee that Dan is also on that will be looking at a long term plan for the school. The school building committee would be expected to bring the suggestions of the staff to the APC committee.

4. Daily School Schedule – Dan, Susan, Jessie, Solvejg, Mike, Julie. The chair of this committee is Solvejg. This committee will be developing a schedule for next school year in regards to specialist schedules. The committee would be looking at specials schedule for grades 1-8 and how to best meet the needs of the students (in terms of how long a special should last and how often should it meet) and the teachers (in terms of meeting required planning time).

5. Social/Sunshine Committee – Lora, Diana, Sue Albina, Sharon, Autumn, Barb, Debbie.

Lora is the chair of the committee. This committee will be working on ways to have staff get-togethers, staff celebrations (maybe birthday), and other ways that the staff can come together and enjoy each other's company.

6. Calendar (for school year and ER days) – Cara, Guin, Dana, Tish, Anna, Celena. Celena is the chair of this committee. This committee will begin by looking at the school's calendar for next year. This committee would need to look at the day of the ER, the time, and how to best schedule PD days and Parent-teacher conference days. This committee would need input from me about the total number of student contact days. Additionally, the committee would look at the festivals and extra-curricular activities for the school year.

- Executive Committee Meeting (administration committee) –. This committee met on Thursday for the first time. The committee consists of the APC, BPG, PC, Faculty Chair, Parent-partnership coordinator and me. Each member was able to share information and each member was able to ask clarifying questions of each other. The committee will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
- Non-violent communication – Kirsten Gerrish and I (mostly Kirsten) have been working on scheduling a work-shop on non-violent communication. Tentative dates have been set up for end of April. More information will become available about this opportunity soon.

Charter Re-write Committee:

Although this would belong under committee reports I wanted to update the APC on the charter re-write since I am present to do so. The initial meeting took place on Thursday the 30th. Lori Berrigan, Donna Levesque, and I met to review the required paperwork from the state. A time frame was developed for the re-write that will be the following: the re-write paperwork will be presented to the APC at the May 7th board meeting. If approved the paperwork will be presented to the MSBSD for the 21st board meeting. If there are needed revisions then the committee would work on the revisions over the summer and the re-write would be re-submitted to the MSBSD in August. The goal would be to have the re-write to the State by October.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Busbey, Principal