

**River Oak Charter School Parent Council  
December 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** 5:32 pm
2. **Roll Call:** Estelle, Carol, Megan, Adriana, Achilles, Rob, Angela, Melissa
3. **Approval of Minutes - November 2017:**
  - a. Motion to approve Title 1 discussion - Estelle 1st
4. **Public Comment:**
  - a. **Email Policy** — PC is not part of the Brown Act but should usually follow policy about not voting via email, but sometimes it's good to be flexible if in the interest of students (eg approval of 1st Grade fundraiser)
  - b. **Back Porch Project** — could have Back Porch Project at Barra fundraiser, Ed Foundation is creating an auction event
5. **Action Items:**
  - a. **Raffle Fundraiser** — Parent Council could facilitate deposit & check writing for raffle of a crocheted quilt on behalf of 4th grade (classes can't do raffles), tickets need to be personal (not represent school), need legal guidance; Carol 1st, Adriana 2nd, no abstaining
  - b. **Community Advent Spiral** — is PC able to help with cost of the event? Estelle moves to donate up to \$200 for event space and rental, Carol seconds; to be distributed to event planners
  - c. **Water Bottle Sales** — sell remaining 20 bottle from Danceathon at cost for \$10 to teachers; Carol 1st, Estelle 2nd
  - d. **Traveling Lantern Theater Company** — Johnny Appleseed for K-3, March 2nd is a possible date, costs about \$450, Achilles will look into it more, table decision for now
  - e. **CNC Math Festival** — no experience doing it in Waldorf schools but have in Montessori schools, works best with mixed grades, \$1500 for small school day-time festival, \$700 for 1.5 hours in the evening, \$300 for hotel, \$252 mileage, \$152 per diem for meals; everyone agrees this isn't a fit price-wise
  - f. **PC Merchandise** — baseball caps (\$6 or \$16), sweatpants, water bottles (\$9.65), pens, canvas tote bag, keychain, bumper sticker; Achilles is looking for ideas; could offer for sale on website as well as at events; Blue Mountain has good prices
6. **Reports:**
  - a. **Administrator** —
    - i. Community Advent Spiral on Sunday the 10th at the Grange
    - ii. Middle School Concert on Wednesday the 13th at Bartlett Hall
    - iii. Assembly on Thursday the 14th at Bartlett
    - iv. Community outreach program at Yokayo Headstart Preschool on 18th to help the ROCS **demographic match the community** (35% Hispanic in this area, and school is about 20%, need to make steps to improve)

- v. **Spanish** teacher Camille Meeker is taking leave of absence for 2nd half of the year while teaching in Oaxaca, Amy Jirout will take her place as Spanish teacher
  - b. **Faculty** —
    - i. Discussing **looping teaching years** to shorter segments within the 8 years so that teachers can teach in the grades that they are strongest in, be able to develop more expertise, and have students be seen in new ways by a new teacher, want to have a relationship-based education still, could have a middle school team with home room teacher / home base and specialists in certain areas
    - ii. Discussing **solid graduation requirements** for ROCS and building a system of support for students not meeting those requirements, research shows that social promotion (keeping students with their class) is more effective than holding them back, but if not meeting requirements it could be marked in their transcript going into high school, and can have remediation study class instead of an elective but singling out students can be harmful too, want to have more regulated standards but also have support where needed, would like diploma to mean something
  - c. **Treasurer:**
    - i. Deposited \$13,434.40, paid \$12,174.52 to classrooms, spent \$1,744.42 on prizes and expenses, with \$1,343.44 covered by 10% fee from the total
  - d. **Charter Council** — Discussed Title 1, Achilles attended
  - e. **Ed Foundation** — Informal meetings, raising money for teacher development, want to encourage small monthly donations of \$5 per month or give time every month, send email out to encourage parents; working on auction
  - f. **Classroom Reports**
    - i. Golden Sun — making gingerbread
    - ii. 5th Grade — lots of sickness going around
    - iii. 6th Grade — studying astronomy
    - iv. 8th Grade — going to Dickens Faire at Cow Palace
7. **Ongoing Business:**
- a. **PC Reps and Alts** — need for 2nd grade, 7th, 8th; Achilles will send an email to encourage new reps and alts
  - b. **KMEC Student Radio Program** — no news
  - c. **Update Fundraiser Form** — Amber and Achilles working on it
  - d. **Parent Outreach** — no news re welcome packet
  - e. **Title 1 Discussion** — we had voted on wording to go to the Charter Council about funding for academics, want to refer to **communications guidelines** and have parents go to teachers first if there's a problem, but it wasn't made official; communications have been a problem in the past so want to rectify it, wanted to get input (review and discuss) from PC, we had taken a vote on wording that was then not presented to the Charter Council, would have come to a special meeting

about it if that were needed, would be good to have open committees that welcome parent involvement and with sufficient time for input (before a real decision has been made); Achilles asked for PC policy suggestions to be respected by the Charter Council and members were receptive; proposal to craft a letter about involvement in policy decisions in general and inclusion in committees; Estelle and Laurel will attend the next Charter Council meeting; PC will come up with a communication policy (committee = Estelle, Melissa, Achilles)

**8. Upcoming Events:**

- a. **Literacy Week in February** — form a committee with Melissa (potential Chair), Jill (book sale), Sarah (green eggs and ham), Estelle (reading log form), Achilles (tbd), Angela (tbd), Achilles will also invite others and be the initial POC; meet as a committee Monday 18th in evening to plan and talk about additional ideas:
  - i. Have prizes for reading
  - ii. Evening story time or performances about books
  - iii. Integrate reading during school time for social element to motivate
  - iv. Write/draw/paint creative response to a book for extra credit

Adjourned at 7:28