

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Arizona State Board of Education

1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089

www.asbcs.az.gov

RECEIVED MAR 11 2009
06

INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) San Tan Montessori School INC. (CTDS) 078539000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 4450 East Elliot Road

(City, State) Gilbert, Arizona (Zip) 85234

(Charter Representative's Name) Kristofer Sippel

(Phone Number) 480-222-0811 (Fax Number) 480-539-1028

Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed. Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

↓ Changes in number of contractual days of instruction

Included is the following:


- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and San Tan Montessori School INC. (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: 185

TO: 180

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 9th day of March, 2009, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 200__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.



Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
February 17th, 2009

The regular meeting of the San Tan Learning Center School Board of Gilbert, Arizona, was held on February 17, 2009 in Room #208 at Superstition Springs Community Church pursuant to the San Tan Learning Center School Board bylaws.

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Sippel called the meeting to order at 4:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Board members Present: Board President Sippel
Board Vice-President Sippel
Board Secretary Romano
Board Member DeAndrado
Board Member Sterzinar
Board Member Wahlman

Community Guests: Rusty Shaffer

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA) Board Member DeAndrado

MOVED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED, THAT THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES BE ACCEPTED, THAT THE JANUARY EXPENDITURES BE ACCEPTED, THAT THE SCHOOL'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT IS ACCEPTED, AND THAT ALL ITEMS ARE APPROVED

DISCUSSION:

Board Member Sterzinar inquired about the status of the possible lawsuit from a previous employee. Board President Sippel replied that the school has not heard from the employee's lawyers, but that does not necessarily mean the matter has been dropped. He will keep the board updated if this status changes. Board Member DeAndrado requested clarification on the instructional supplies line item of January's expenditures. Board President Sippel replied that this includes Practical Life items for the Montessori classroom, paper, Chandler Warehouse supplies, etc. Board Member DeAndrado also questioned the increase of \$1,000 in custodial services. Board President Sippel replied that this was for the deep clean which was held during Winter Break. San Tan Learning Center's mission statement has been modified to include Character Education as per the most recent staff meeting.

Board President Sippel SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED.

The motion carried.

AWARDS, PRESENTATION, AND STAFF PRESENTATION OF RECEIPT OF GRANT OF DONATED FUNDS

NONE

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CURRENT EVENTS

NONE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGE IN INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS FROM 185 TO 180

DISCUSSION:

Board President Sippel explained that currently the State of Arizona only requires 180 days of instruction. San Tan Learning Center's Charter has 185 days to make up for the lost days needed for mandated state testing, which only takes three days to complete. Given that one of the proposed state cuts includes changing the instructional days to 175, San Tan Learning Center is currently 10 days over the prospective state requirement. By adjusting the total instruction days to 180, San Tan Learning Center will still be at the state mandated minimum if they choose not to change instructional days and five days over if they do change it to 175 days. In addition to this, Board President Sippel stated that although staff members will not receive an increase in salary for the upcoming school year, there will be 5 less instructional days which will be relative to their contracts.

BOARD SECRETARY ROMANO MOVED THAT SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER'S INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS BE DECREASED FROM 185 TO 180 BE APPROVED

Board Member DeAndrado SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE APPOSED.

The motion carried.

INCREASE IN SCHOOL ENROLLMENT CAP TO 500

DISCUSSION:

In San Tan Learning Center's original Charter application, student capacity was 85. It was then increased to 205. Since it is the school's intention to relocate in the near future, an increase to a 500 student capacity is necessary to accommodate the growing student population.

BOARD MEMBER WAHLMAN MOVED THAT SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER'S ENROLLMENT CAP TO 500 STUDENTS BE APPROVED

Board Member Sterzinar SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE APPOSED.

The motion carried.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY REVIEW

DISCUSSION:

After a review of the changes made per the last board meeting a new Communicable diseases policy has been created. Upon further review from the board, it was determined that more revisions were needed. Therefore, an updated policy will be presented at next month's board meeting for approval based upon Board Secretary Romano's notes.

BOARD PRESIDENT SIPPEL MOVED THAT SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER'S REVISED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY BE DENIED

Board Member DeAndrado SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE APPOSED.

The motion carried.

2009-2010 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND INVESTIGATION OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

DISCUSSION:

Board President Sippel stated that Board Vice-President Sippel should be commended for her hard work in obtaining a Federal Grant which will assist San Tan Learning Center's budget for the next three years. In addition to this grant receipt, San Tan Montessori's pre-school has subsidized San Tan Learning Center's Elementary for the 2008-2009

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SAN TAN LEARNING CENTER SCHOOL BOARD

February 17, 2009

Page 3 of 6

school year. With an exponential amount of budget cuts in Education proposed by the state and the inequity of Pre-school assisting with the Elementary budget, Board President Sippel has devised a possible solution: To enact a Significant Learning Extension Fund for Elementary students (grades First – Fifth) in the amount of \$50/month per child (\$10/month per sibling). Board President Sippel also indicated the need for an in-house accountant which would be in charge of Pre-school and Elementary budgets and income. All board members agreed that this position was necessary. Board Member Sterzinar questioned if instituting a SLEF would cause STLC to lose a portion of its current population (i.e. are families willing to pay for STLC's program). Board Member Wahlman questioned if we will, "cut our nose to spite our face?" Board President Sippel indicated that in Apache Junction, portions of a school have been closed which will lead to a re-structuring of combo classes. Elsewhere in the state, school districts are increasing class sizes and removing Music and Art from their programs. If we present to our current families this information along with the fact that \$50/month will guarantee that Music, Art, P.E. will remain in the school's program, our current families will realize the need for a SLEF (Significant Learning Extension Fund). Board Member Wahlman was adamant that we must be consistent in demonstrating what we offer to our families for the \$50/month (i.e. Art, Music, P.E. all year round, no matter what may occur in the future). Board Vice-President Sippel added that we have a "Montessori spirit" which other schools do not offer. Board Member Sterzinar went on to pose the question: "How much are parents willing to sacrifice?" We do not offer transportation or lunch, would parents oppose a SLEF? Community Member Shaffer stated that he as a parent would be open to the SLEF, but it's all in how the school delivers the information (i.e. \$50/month not \$500/year). Also, it doesn't sound so imposing if we include that families will receive up to \$400 back in tax credits (since the proposed removal of Elementary Tax Credits for Arizona residents has been taken off the line items for prospective budget cuts for the upcoming school year) and most families spend around \$120 in school supplies (which will be provided by the school with SLEF monies). Therefore, you're really saving \$20. All Board Members agreed that instituting a SLEF would benefit both the school and its families.

BOARD SECRETARY ROMANO MOVED THAT STLC CREATE A \$500 SLEF FOR THE FIRST CHILD, \$100 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD (SIBLING) FOR ELEMENTARY (GRADES FIRST – FIFTH), AND THAT STLC CREATE A SUPPLEMENTARY TUITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 FOR ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN BE APPROVED

Board Member DeAndrado SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED.

The motion carried.

NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

DISCUSSION:

Board President Sippel went over proposed floor plans with Board Members DeAndrado and Wahlman. Board Member DeAndrado asked if the school could combine the Music Room with the Art Room to save space. Board President Sippel stated yes. Board President Sippel and Community Member Shaffer went over Champion's letter of intent. Board Member Wahlman questioned the background of Champion. Community Member Shaffer stated that they are a Canadian based company who has been in Arizona for 10 years completing about 12 projects state-wide. Champion completed West Valley Montessori, which opened on time despite being over budget due to school made change orders. Board President Sippel stated that Ricky Lyons, the ITS Manager from Champion, is working with Sunrise Pre-school to discuss possible competition. So far, their only concern is that STLC offers before and after care, but it should be a symbiotic relationship (i.e. parents need childcare when the school is not in session and beyond the school's 5:30 P.M. after care pick-up time). Board Member Shaffer indicated that casualty insurance will be offered on a per pupil basis. Highmark believes this lease is a good deal (\$16/sq. ft.).

NEW STAFF CONTRACT REVIEW

DISCUSSION:

Board Wahlman suggested that there should be a Parent Advisory Council composed of parents who would like to be a part of the interviewing process for STLC staff members. Board Member Sterzinar added that benefits should be spelled out (i.e. \$4,000 in medical, \$500 in state retirement for Elementary and 401K for preschool, etc.) in Exhibit "B." Also, tools needed to perform job should be specifically notated under Exhibit "A" General Duties of Employment. Board Secretary Romano requested exact wording from Board Member Sterzinar who then responded that she would e-mail it to Board Secretary Romano.

BOARD SECRETARY ROMANO MOVED THAT THE REVISED STAFF EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT REFLECTING THE BOARD'S FEEDBACK (SEE ABOVE) BE APPROVED

Board Member DeAndrado SECONDED

THE MOTION.

VOTE: SIX IN FAVOR, NONE APPOSED.

The motion carried.

