

**Watershed APC Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2018**

Members present: Jarrod Decker, Amy Arneson, Abigail Paul, Dave Merrill, Jason Gillam, Renee Rember, Carie Green, Kelly Mansfield, Moira O'Malley

Agenda Item 1: Review/approve minutes

Arneson moved to approve, Paul seconded; unanimous vote to approve

Agenda Item 2: Nomination/election of APC officers

Chair: Jason Gillam

Vice chair: Renee Rember

Secretary: Kelly Mansfield

Agenda Item 3: Head teacher update

- a. Road commission/service area (Decathlon is private road)
 - a. A parent currently plows snow as part of volunteer hours. Next school year Watershed will need to pay someone or find another parent to take over
 - b. Road commission cuts brush every other year
 - i. Watershed pays to have brush cut yearly where needed
 - c. Watershed pays for grater to smoother out Decathlon
 - i. *Question:* Could the road in front of Watershed on Decathlon be paved? Cost? Would Sadler and Gramma Francine agree to paving?
 - 1. Gillam will bring in pricing for paving at next meeting
- b. Staffing
 - a. Arneson returns Nov. 1; no long-term sub until then, Decker filling in as sub because it's been easier (and saves Watershed money)
 - b. 2 new school aids hired
 - i. 2 new students attending because of new hires (staff kids) – one new student in 2nd grade and 5th grade
 - ii. 10% SPED is about avg in district
- c. Budget
 - a. Comparison of last 2 years: FY19 down about \$3K
 - i. Staff cost increased
 - ii. Watershed budget doesn't have borough money, only state
 - 1. The current debate with the FNSBSD and FNSB is about money to cover borough owned buildings
 - 2. Watershed's building is leased so doesn't affect the school
 - b. All of FY19 lease paid for (\$350K from FY18 budget prepaid FY19)
 - i. The amount of prepaying has been consistent over the past few years (\$350K)
 - 1. Should some of that money be used for other things so that we are not carrying over that amount every year?
 - a. Decker suggested adding support staff as an option

- i. A full-time aid costs \$42-43K a year; It would take 8 years to use up the \$350K that's been used to prepay the lease
 - ii. Discussion: Want to make sure to maintain some reserve for "rainy-day" (e.g., boiler repair/replace)
 - b. Another suggestion was adding a portable classroom/outbuilding for extra teaching space
 - i. Considerations: heating, security
 - c. Bus purchase?
 - i. Decker said not interested because
 - 1. Don't want maintenance on a bus
 - 2. Don't want to obligate staff to drive
 - 3. Often need 2 buses to transport students
 - ii. Lease is up in 2019 (same schedule as Charter)
 - 1. *Question:* What will the cost of lease be upon renewal?
- d. APC parent election results
 - a. Nobody on APC received feedback from parents about election.
- e. Mission reflection
 - a. Service learning
 - i. 4th grade ASI project: swallow boxes at UAF
 - ii. 5th grade teaches science project to preschool class
 - iii. K, 6th-8th grades Winter Berry Citizen Science
 - b. Academics
 - i. MAP vs. PEAKS results
 - 1. Take home: look at multiple sources to get bigger picture
 - ii. Attendance
 - 1. Letters being sent home with report cards to students at risk of exceeding allowed days if they continue at same rate of absences (>5) or lots of tardies
 - iii. Homework policy discussion
 - 1. Watershed follows district homework policy
 - 2. District working on revisions to policy (see working draft handout)
 - a. There was concern by the APC about the possible new changes to the policy
 - b. Watershed could adopt its own homework policy if APC feels the need
 - 3. 2 categories of homework: Projects (e.g., moon journals, sub-arctic home design) and Practice (e.g., math sheets, spelling)
- c. Outings
 - i. 8th grade week long (7 days) in Homer

- ii. 7th grade canoed Delta Clearwater River: Decker and Merrill assisted, plus many parent volunteers to pull this off
- iii. 6th grade Denali Science at Murie Ctr (train to and from) – must apply every year and Watershed has been able to go for last 3 yrs
- iv. 6th grade hiked 11 miles; 5th/6th grade biked a lot...in the rain
- v. Canoe Chaos

Agenda Item 4: Charter renewal

- Deadlines are approaching. Decker is waiting to hear from district on dates
- Decker asked other charters for advice on renewals and is waiting for replies
- **TASK**
APC members review the Renewal Charter School Application before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Additional items

- None

Next meeting: November 15 at 6pm

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm