Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title:	WCC Meeting	**Date:**	7.16.20		
President:	Susannah Numme	**Location:**	Winterberry Charter School		
Minute Taker:	Molly Towner	**Start:**	6:10pm	**End:**	7:15pm
Attendees: Molly Towner (recording secretary), Sue Armstrong, Alex Schutz, Susannah Numme (chair), Julie Pepe-Phelps (principal), Sarah Glaser (faculty), Marc Stover, Paula Dobbyn, Jessie Menkens, Lisa Stratford (faculty), Peter Host					

I. Opening

A .Motto of the social ethic

B. Song (Deep Peace)

C. Excitement sharing

II. Approval of Minutes: Peter Host moved to approve the minutes as amended. Sue Armstrong 2nd. Approved unanimously.

III. **Approval of Agenda:** Peter Host moved to approve the agenda. Marc Stover 2nd. Approved unanimously.

IV. **Community Comments**: Molly Towner gave a community comment.

V. Informational Reports

A. Administrator's Report (Julie Pepe-Phelps)

Ms. Pepe-Phelps gave the administrator's report. (attached) Questions about what kind of flexibility Winterberry will have once the school plan has been decided at the Tuesday school board meeting. It is not known at this time.

B. Faculty: (Sarah Glaser)

A few teachers attended online teacher trainings. The speaker advocated for technology for all grades during this time. "We need to see the technology as a life raft and not be afraid to use it." Another focus of the training was in regards to providing an anti-racist education. Molly Towner gave a presentation in the spring about cultural responsiveness. She hopes that this is something the whole staff will continue to take up.

Some members of the faculty have wondered what kind of freedom Winterberry will have to make decisions.

C. WPG Report (Jessie Menkens)

WPG did not meet last month, but will meet next month. Jessie will continue to serve as the WCC/WPG Liaison. Trina McBride was elected as the new treasurer. Barbara Amy, the past treasurer, will be missed. Jessica Gardner (fundraising) and Oona Martin (president) will stay on into the fall for a transitionary period. There will be a visioning process coming soon. They hope to include participation from all 3 bodies. A lot of money was saved because the teachers did online trainings this summer. Fundraising strategies in the near future will need to be discussed. Gratitude for the faculty and the staff.

D. Committee Reports

1. Administrative Committees (answers to principal)

a. Safety (Julie Pepe-Phelps)

No report this month.

b. Outdoor play space (Julie Pepe-Phelps)

No report

2. WCC subcommittee

a. Legislative Policy Committee (Jessie Menkens)

Many departments are working on their budgets. There has been a lot of focus on how the CARES funding is dispersed. The disbursement has been very slow, which has had a big effect on families.

b. Budget (Shana Garrels)

No report

c. **Alliance for Public Waldorf Education**

The Alliance has a new, better-looking website.

d. **Grant Committee**

Nothing to report. They are open to questions and comments.

VI. Business

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A. Winterberry's response to school start

What is the WCC role as a board? First and foremost to support the principal, the well being of the school, and the charter.

One of WCC's roles is health and safety.

Questions about homeschool or Hybrid vs. online vs. in-person. If a student is homeschooled, do they lose their spot?

Julie- would like to be as generous/flexible as possible, while also being fiscally responsible.

Sue- Would like to see lots of communication to families, even if the communication is to say "We don't have answers yet." Maintaining the safety and fidelity of our model.

Lisa- What role can this play in making sure Winterberry is offering high quality Waldorf Education? We have a model for delivering our curriculum online. What role can the WCC play in supporting this?

Sarah- Would like to see us pursue the question of whether we can be more restrictive than the district safety-wise. The first step is advocating for that power for our school.

Lisa- Distance education full- time saves the inconsistencies of flip – flopping from distance/hybrid.

Jessie- suggests a meeting with Dr. Bishop, Ms. Pepe, some members of WCC on that topic.

Sarah- Has not seen the numbers the district plans to use (what percentage of transmission over how many days?) for movement from one realm to another.

Julie-Initial plan was to see what the school board decides on Tuesday and then meet with any faculty who wants to meet next week. Everything that has been offered so far has been a draft.

Sue: There's a finite window of opportunity we have in front of us. She would like to find out sooner rather than later

Paula: It seems essential to find out ASAP if a charter school principal can opt out of reopening a school during a pandemic. What is the most efficient/fastest way to find that out?

Julie: is happy to ask those questions of Darrell or Dr. Bishop. He did not have answers to the questions asked today.

Sue suggests a committee meeting including Julie, a faculty member, and at least some WCC members OR call an emergency meeting next week.

Sue suggests asking WPG reps to contact the families in their class to ask questions about how the families are feeling. Faculty needs to be surveyed also.

Alex- The WCC needs to make sure to follow the open meetings act and trusts Ms. Pepe to handle this.

Jessie- Should the Tuesday evening board meeting be announced to the community?

Susannah- hopes the board can be open to an emergency meeting as needed in the next few weeks.

Gratitude:

Level of professionalism and care in this body

In these extraordinary times with uncertainty, appreciates what everyone is doing. Julie is doing a great job. Please reach out if you need something. To the teachers- I don't envy the decisions that need to be made here.

This meeting has filled her with hope and was glad the voices could be heard tonight.

Creating a micro-school with lots of time outdoors-and thankful for how amazing Alaska is.

Gratitude for the board for talking through the issues. Gratitude for the teachers.

Gratitude for board and school community.

Gratitude for the peaceful way the conversations are happening.

VII. Adjourn

Paula Dobbyn moved to adjourn. Marc Stover 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Principal's Report for WCC
7-16-20
Julie Pepe-Phelps

HEART

- Families staying connected, teachers reaching out to each other---kind concern for one another in our Winterberry community.

HANDS

- Parents keeping gardens watered through the summer.
- Mr. Edwin deep cleaning our building
- New phone system installed by District

HEAD

- Have continued to connect with new Grade 3 teacher Tomas Jensen and new Movement teacher, Jill Krueger---added to Faculty Google drive to access Staff Handbook, etc...
- Scheduling a staff zoom meeting next week after School Board meeting.

Following is a verse by Rudolf Steiner that I have been reflecting on lately:

A Verse for Our Time

We must eradicate from the soul
All fear and terror of what comes toward us
Out of the future.

We must acquire serenity in all feelings and sensations
About the future.

We must look forward with absolute equanimity
To everything that may come.

And we must think only that whatever comes
Is given to us by a world-directive full of wisdom.

It is part of what we must learn in this age,
Namely, to live out of pure trust,
Without any security in existence.

Trust in the ever present help of the spiritual world.
Truly, nothing else will do if our courage is not to fail us.

And let us seek the awakening from within ourselves
Every morning and every evening.