

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM #50 (2009-2010)

September 14, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END-OF-YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2008-2009
RILKE SCHULE GERMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
CHARTER SCHOOL

ASD Goal: *Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an annual review of each charter school. To be specific, the policy states:

“The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic Policy Committee will submit a concise written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than September 15 of each school year. This report will include, but is not limited to, information of the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and SBA reports; recommendations for remediation for poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body of the charter school; descriptions of charter school activities; copies of any leases signed by the charter school; current bylaws of the Academic policy Committee; notification of establishment of 501 © (3) status; list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization; any changes in facility location; any major changes planned for the following school year; a list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the school board, through the superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of

contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Rilke Schule Charter School will be available to present their annual report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time. Connie Bensler, the previous charter school supervisor for the Anchorage School District, worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attended APC meetings and provided assistance to these groups on working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School Law, policies and regulations. Her successor, Mary Meade-Olberding, looks forward to continuing this relationship.

Rilke Schule German School of Arts & Sciences (K-8) had a very successful second year. After forming a Public Relations and Advertising Committee and training Parent Ambassadors to get the word out about their school, their enrollment soared from an average of 200 students in the fall of 2008 to over 270 currently. With emphasis placed on recruiting primary students, they now have four kindergartens, two first, and two second grades. This growth is causing them to look closely at other facility options for next year. They have added new staff members and continue to face the challenge of finding certificated German speakers with native or near-native abilities, since half of each day is taught in English and the other half is taught using the German language.

The principal, Crystal Wrabetz, has done a great job of leading the school in partnership with their committed Academic Policy Committee, which still includes two of the founding board members. The Rilke Schule Verein (RSV) is their parent/teacher organization that assists the school by volunteering, sponsoring fundraisers, and other community activities. These tireless supporters volunteered more than 6,000 hours at the school in 2008-2009.

Rilke Schule made AYP again this year, but continues to use assessment data to determine areas in which to improve. Students were placed in level-appropriate math classes, and small group instruction was provided for students at all levels. “Academic Boot Camp” and after hours tutoring were also available for students. Another school goal that was met was the implementation of a schoolwide discipline plan.

The following were among the various successful activities during the year: free German language tutorial service was provided to students new to the immersion program; weekly advanced language practice was held for more advanced German speakers; two German-immersion summer camps were held

for both new and returning students; and many German cultural events were celebrated throughout the year. They also built robots, went on many field trips, sponsored a drama club, held a science fair, and continued school band instruction.

Rilke Schule is something to be very proud of; the school is a success in every way. The founders continue to be a part of the school and help to make it a very special place for children. It will be a pleasure to see it continue to grow and flourish in the future.

CC/EG/MM

Attachment

Prepared by: Mary Meade-Olberding, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Ed Graff, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction