

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
February 12, 2015 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board (6:00-7:00pm)
 - a. SEI training (Aaron Spencer) 6:00-6:10
 - b. Closed session for the purpose of Director's formal evaluation, Board Member interviews, and pending litigation.
 - c. Charter Fidelity Monitoring Review
 - d. Board Appreciation nominations
 - e. Discussion of Attendance Policy, Transportation Policy, and Opt-Out Policy
 - f. Continue discussion of 8th grade

2. Welcome and open regular session (7:05pm)

3. Approval of minutes from 1/15/15 and 1/29/15 meetings.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Mission Statement: (7:05-7:10)

The mission of Valley Academy is to provide a superior, character building academic program enhanced by integrated training in fine and performing arts, and a technologically advanced curriculum; *in a Social Emotional Learning environment that promotes responsible freedom.*

5. Board Appreciation

6. How well are the school's finances being managed? (7:10-7:25)

- a. Business Manager's monthly report

7. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered? (7:25-7:50)

- a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report
 - i. Discussion and possible action on any purchase orders over \$1,000
 - ii. Dibels Math, Accreditation Review, School Bus video cameras, State Trust Lands Application

8. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities? (7:50-8:20)

- a. Board Training/Charter Review
- b. Any reports from committees
 - i. Accountability Committee
- c. Discussion and possible action on Attendance Policy, Transportation Policy, and Opt-Out

Policy

9. Public Comment (8:20-8:30)

- a. PTO report
- b. Any other public comment

Please plan ahead for your comments to be 3 minutes or less. Due to open meeting regulations, please be aware that the board will not be able to *formally* discuss or take action on items brought up in this meeting's public comment period.

10. Next meeting *proposed* for March 12, 2015

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2015 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

In attendance: Lane Blackmore, Derek Lewis, Aaron Spencer, Ben Reusch, Steven DeMille, Kevin Dunkley, Nick Turner, Thayne Smith, Alisha Terry-Martin

1. Work session of the Board: (began at 6:05)

a. Aaron Spencer (3rd grade teacher) presented about what SEI looks like in his classroom. Aaron starts the year off creating a classroom that is a safe place to share feelings and make mistakes. He wants the kids to know he loves them and encourages positive reinforcement. When real situations happen in the classroom, he takes time to address them right away so the learning environment can still continue. Example of kids pre-occupied with a stressful test situation and the discussion they had as a class. Aaron expressed his gratitude for working in a place where he is able to have the time to do SEI in the classroom.

b. Derek made a motion to move to a closed session for the purpose of pending litigation and Director's formal evaluation. All members in favor. Closed session began 18:13 and ended 18:48.

c. Charter Fidelity Monitoring Review- this will be revisited at next month's meeting in conjunction with the Director's evaluation.

d. Board Appreciation Nomination: Mark Carlson was nominated by a fellow teacher. Mr. Carlson is a very familiar face at VAC because he is the most awesome substitute in the county. Mark embraces our SEI pillar more than some of the teachers. When he substitutes the teacher does not have to worry about the day being wasted, he steps up and teaches the children. The children love him, he is engaged and does not sit at the desk and "babysit." He is a warm, caring, genuine person. He loves the children, he goes above and beyond the call of duty. I just wanted him to know what an asset he is to Valley even though is is "just a sub."

e. Discussion of Attendance Policy- this policy is in its final draft form and is ready for approval this evening. Discussion of Addendum to Transportation- this policy needs further work and will be brought back by the legal team at the next meeting. Discussion of Opt-Out Policy- we will adopt the State's policy and vote on this in the regular meeting tonight.

f. This discussion will need to be continued at the next meeting. Next meeting rescheduled for March 19th due to the regularly scheduled meeting being during Spring Break. Derek made a motion to end the work session and move to the regular session. All members in favor.

2. Regular meeting started at 7:05pm.

Additional in attendance: Tonya Crunk, Mark Zwahlen, Natalie Metzger, Peggy Childs, Rico and Lori Adorno, Emo Emerson.

3. Steven made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meetings as written. All members in favor.

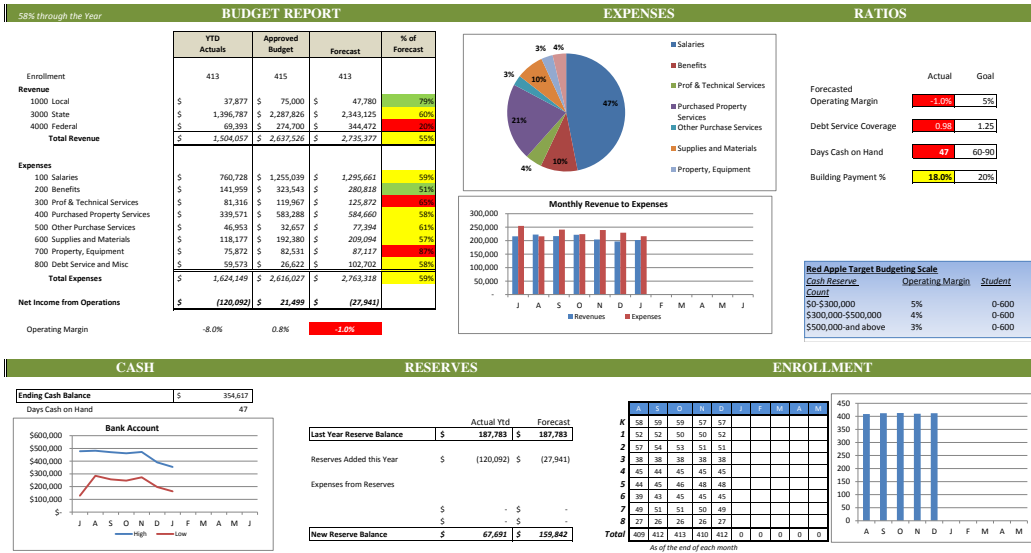
4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Lane. Mission statement read by Steven.

5. Rico Adorno was recognized by the Board for being an exemplary volunteer. He helps in the lunchroom every day with all tasks from set-up to clean-up. He always has a smile and we love having him here!

6. Business Manager's monthly report:



Financial Summary
as of January 31st, 2015



Created by Red Apple

Questions asked for follow up: What is our original contract with Skywire? Pricing seems excessive. Reminder of approval needed for all purchase orders over \$1,000.

Finance Committee Meeting: Feb 26th at 12:00.

7. Director's Monthly Report:

Director's Report for Board Meeting February 12, 2015

Total School Enrollment as of February 9, 2015: **409**

Enrollment	Status	Race	Gender	Advisors											Enroll					
Grade:	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total										
Active	39	54	59	38	47	45	44	48	25	409										
Withdrawn	4	7	9	3	3	3	4	5	2	43										
Effective 2/9/2015	35	51	58	35	44	42	40	43	23	452										

Intent to Return Forms: due February 13, 2015.

As of February 9, 2015, 72% of the school has returned their forms. Phone calls and e-mails will be sent to those not turned in by that date.

Of the returned forms:

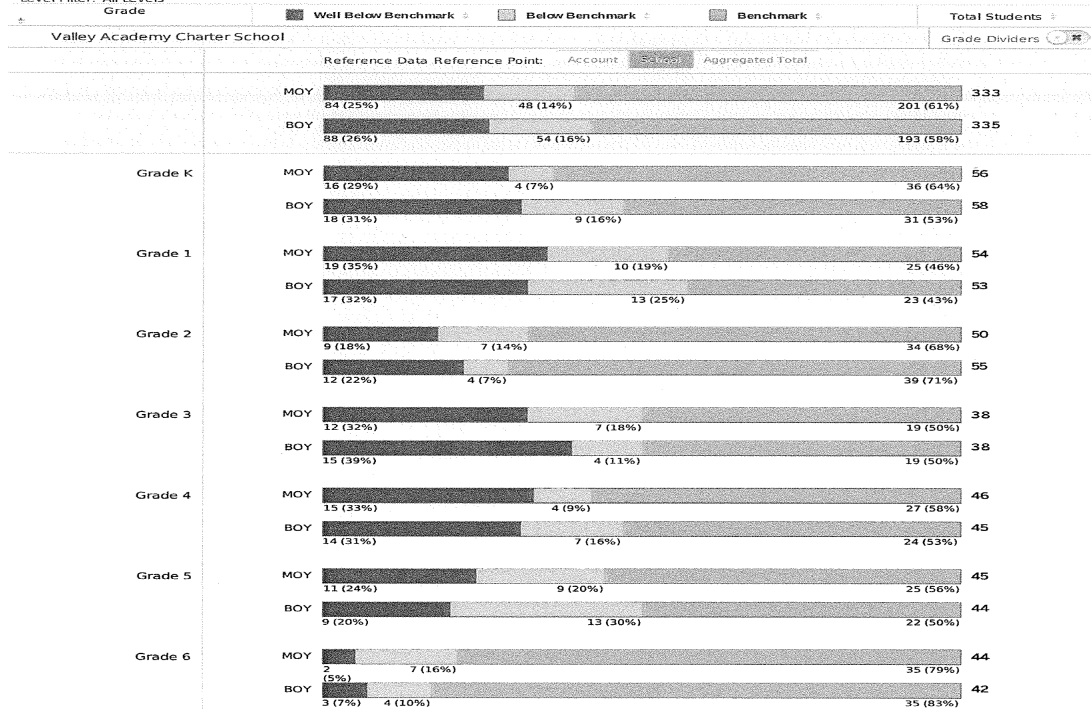
- 91% are returning
- 9% are NOT returning

Student of the Month (December/January):

- K: Madison Ramirez
- 1: Ridge DeMille & Sara Monger
- 2: Madilyn Welch
- 3: Jared Hurst
- 4: Ian Merida
- 5: Lydia Anderson
- 6: Gabriela Merida
- 7: Logan Whitworth
- 8: Iyan Ayres
- Spanish: Jayden Zesiger
- Dance: Olyvia Perry
- Music: Jaylee Bills

View
 Segment Results By: Grade
 Report Level: School
 Grade Divider: Off
 Bar Length: Percentage
 Population
 Grade: All (PK - 12)
 District: Valley Academy Charter School ...
 School: Valley Academy Charter School
 Time
 School Year: 2014-2015
 Period: All Periods
 Show Students Enrolled: On Test Day
 Measure
 Measure: Composite Score
 Performance Measurement: Levels
 Level Filter: All Levels

*Beginning of Year
compared to
Middle of Year Testing*



- Mr. Dunkley reported that teacher websites are a great place to find information about what goes on in the classroom on a daily basis. The hallways are bright and full of student artwork. The newsletter is going out weekly and monthly.
- Students have been participating in ski club this past month with students from other schools.
- Another Title I teacher has been hired and Title I is currently serving 129 students who are at a low reading level.
- State Trust Lands application is being worked on and is due soon.
- An application is being made now for a \$15,000 grant for after-school programs that will also help with added curriculum.
- The Korean students are still here at the school and have been doing well in all the classes.
- The PTO did a heart attack to Laverkin Elementary and Mr. Dunkley got a message back from Laverkin's Principal that they appreciated it and were open to doing some projects together with us.
- There have been a few problems with the SAGE testing already this year, but still working on it...the writing portion is happening right now, even though we are just over half way through the year. Opting out of State tests is a trend that is happening a lot with the new common core. A board member asked what effect it has on the school grading when students opt out. All we know is that the State has said students who opt out are not counted in the 1-4 grading system. They have said we "may" lose federal money and that it "may" negatively effect our overall school grade when students opt out. Since this is only the 2nd year of SAGE, we won't know a lot about how it effects us until it happens. Only a couple of students have requested opt-out this year so far.

- The former principal signed the school up for an accreditation review this year. When Mr. Dunkley attended the required meeting, we were the only elementary school in attendance. We will not be participating in this review because the State does not require elementary schools to be accredited. This will also be a cost savings to the school since the review is very costly. The up-side to this whole process is that it has kept our sights on the improvement goals we already set with the State's improvement program.
- Mr. Dunkley would like to see more volunteerism happening at the school to help in the classroom.
- So far, 25 students have signed up to come back for 8th grade.
- Still looking at school bus cameras that are affordable. Mr. Dunkley has been in contact with the mother who requested the cameras to follow up.
 - a. There are no purchase orders to review this month.

8. a. Board training and review- all members completed.

b. Committee Reports

i. Accountability Committee: Summary of Mid-Year Climate Survey: sent out to parents by email and link posted on FB. 65 people took the survey. 87% of those were parents. Remainder were staff, students, or chose more than one option.

- 96% of responders reported getting the weekly newsletter. Comments were made asking for more detail on what happens in the classrooms.
- Comments about the dress code not being followed and confusion over the shoes that are acceptable. Accountability Committee recommending incentives (tickets) for compliance. Wellness Policy is being followed more closely, but some teachers are still using food as a reward. Continue to follow up on this and improve compliance.
- Responders asking for more arts electives and drama class during the school day.
- Responders asking for a more challenging 7th and 8th grade, a gifted and talented program, and progress toward grades 9-12. Also, requesting a library, more playground equipment, after school programs (daycare).
- Responders love: the buses, the front office staff, the teachers, the PTO, SEI, and the music/art classes that are available to the students on a daily basis.
- 96% of responders reported feeling physically and emotionally safe. Comments made that bullying, lack of staff to watch the playground, and unknown background checks make people feel unsafe. Follow up comments that bullying seems to be better now than at the first of the school year.
- The remainder of the survey will be summarized for the next meeting.

c. Policy Discussion:

- Ben made a motion to accept the revised Attendance Policy as currently written. All members in favor.
- Ben made a motion to table discussion on the addendum to the Transportation Policy until the next meeting. All members in favor.
- Derek made a motion to adopt the State's Opt-Out Policy. All members in favor.

9. Public comment: no requests were made for public comment.

a. PTO report: Our library is starting to become more than just an idea. We had a generous donation of books from the Val Browning Library at Dixie State University. Soon we are going to start asking parents for gently used book donations. We are doing research on donation stickers so that people who donate can put their names inside so that future generations can appreciate their generosity. The book drive will begin the first week of March. An offer was also made by one of the Board Members to build and pay for our book shelves. We appreciate that more than we can say. We are going to offer each grade \$500.00 to spend on share-able materials to be housed in the library. This can be books, materials, teaching aides, whatever they might need. Karen-jane suggested magnifying glasses. Natalie suggested different types of rock for geology lessons. Megan suggested scales for science lessons. There were so many good ideas. Our thought was to let teachers collaborate and see what they can come up with, and then we will buy it. If the materials

can be shared between grades, that would be even better.

We'd like to spend our \$2,600.00 in Scholastic Dollars to purchase some sets of books, some of the Newberry Award winning novels, and some classics. We'd also like a full set of dictionaries. If we can get our order together by book fair time in April, we can get free shipping on everything we order.

The PTO just purchased a set of 32 yellow yoga mats for Ms.Terra's dance classes. She was very excited to get rid of the old worn and ripped mats in exchange for some better quality and larger mats. The students have loved them.

Feed the Teachers happened over SEP week. We decided to cater the lunches for our teachers and staff. We ordered all food through Lin's Market. They gave us a generous discount because it was for Valley Academy. The spring Feed the Teacher will be catered through Davis Foods. We want to spread the love to both of our ultra supportive grocery stores.

The playground USA stencil/four square/hopscotch project is coming along. We are getting ready to purchase paint and supplies, and then we'll set a day on a Saturday for parents to come and join in the fun. Kevin has asked that we keep the USA map and the painted items off of the road where buses travel so that they will last longer. Upon a visit to LaVerkin Elementary to see their stencil, we learned that it has to be repainted every 2-3 years due to lots of use. We are hoping the stencil can be used again in case it is later decided to put it out along the road between the school and the bungalows. This is going to be a fun, colorful, and much needed project and we are really looking forward to it.

The Bobcat mascot costume is coming along great. We would like to put a spirit shirt on him/her as soon as Student Council arrives at a decision for the shirt design. We'd like to first introduce him/her in the Marvin and Jesse assembly in April. At that time, we will announce that our new mascot needs a name, and we can hold the Bobcat Naming Contest.

BoxTop's are being collected through the 20th of this month. A vote will take place on what we will use this money towards.

Dominos Pizza is holding another "Dough Raiser" fundraising activity with us on the 25th of this month. Any pizzas ordered there during that business day, as long as they are on Valley Academy order forms, will earn our school 10% of the overall profit from our school families meals. Dominos is a great business partner for our school and we appreciate their willingness to hold this fundraiser.

We wanted to celebrate Valentines Day in some creative way outside of our school, and per Kevin's wishes to "Heart Attack" another local school, LaVerkin Elementary received a humongous card made by our students and signed by the entire second grade and various other members of our VA family. Just so you know, I signed it from all of you as well. They were SO excited to get it, and they immediately hung it up in their front office.

While at LaVerkin Elementary, I asked if they would be interested in doing some fun activities together. I suggested a service project in Confluence Park, or a grade leveled park day. They were very excited about the idea, and Steve Leavenworth, the principal, will be in contact with Kevin to set some things up. Very exciting!

We have been working hard on Dr. Seuss Week, and we have a full week of fun activities planned. During the week, students will wear Dr Seuss hats, have a day of crazy hair, will enjoy green eggs and ham, will get to "stop, drop and read", and will have the opportunity to get crazy and dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. There will be prizes offered throughout the week for Seuss related trivia questions, and Dr Seuss books will be given as prizes.

One day of this week will be a day when community leaders will come and read to grades K-5. Kindergarten, first and second grade will all be together and third through fifth will have one person in each class. We are asking that they bring along their favorite and familiar Dr. Seuss book to read. On that same day, our sixth through eighth graders will go out into the community, representing Valley academy, while spreading the joy of reading at places like the Hurricane Library, where they will assist in the children's reading activities. They will also go to Laverkin Elementary, Head Start, Dixie Kids, and Hurricane Rehab. Our students will be strongly encouraged to think outside of the box for this project. They can write poems, short stories, perform a skit, bring artwork, and can even read their favorite Seuss related stories. This is a great way to get Valley academy out there in our community. This wild and crazy week will be March 2-6th.

The Emergency Backpack project was FINALLY passed out to teachers and staff. There is an emergency backpack and/or bucket in every single room of our school.

10. Next meeting will be by March 19, 2015 (changed from the regular schedule due to Spring Break).

Derek made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor at 20:06.