

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
February 20, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board 6:00-7:00pm
 - a. Closed session for the purpose of the Director's formal evaluation
 - b. Open session: Mary Ann Johnson- request to speak about policy
 - c. State Trust Lands application
 - d. Board Appreciation for March
2. Welcome and open regular meeting at 7:00pm
3. Approval of minutes from 1/23/2014 public meeting.
4. Mission Statement:
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 students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered?
 - a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report
 - b. Follow up on items from January meeting
 - i. Recommendation on possible amendment to Purchasing/Disbursement Policy to reflect how teachers and staff handle money.
 - ii. Recommendation on possible amendment of Uniform Policy
7. How well are the school's finances being managed?
 - a. Business Manager's monthly report
 - b. Mr. Monson's monthly report
 - i. Discussion and possible action on school policies.
8. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities?
 - a. Board Training/Charter Review
 - b. Any reports from committees
 - i. Accountability Committee
9. Public Comment
 - 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 scheduled for March 20, 2014
11. Adjourn

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session opened at 6:03pm.

In attendance: Lane Blackmore, Doug Beecher, Jimmy Ashley, Kevin Dunkley, Alisha Terry-Martin, Derek Lewis, Ben Ruesch, Dave Monson.

Doug made a motion to move to closed session for the purpose of Mr. Dunkley's formal evaluation. All members in favor.

*****Closed Session*****

*****End of closed session*****

Additional in attendance: Karlene Young

Item b in this section was removed by request of Mary Ann Johnson.

Discussion of State Trust Lands Application: Kevin has spoken to the State Trust Lands office who has suggested that we keep the application the same this year as next year. We should receive \$20-25,000 this year in funding. Karlene Young, proposes that a portion of the AV purchases already written into the application be able to be used for the partial purchase of wireless microphones for our drama program. \$5,000 is currently in the application for educational AV purchases. Karlene is proposing a 3 way split of the mic purchases. Valley Academy, Sherry Behunin (Laverkin Elementary), and Hurricane Valley Arts Association would all contribute to the purchase and share the mics. Karlene does not see a conflict with the usage between the three groups. Karlene will work with Kevin on agreements and purchase. Because no changes are being made to the State Trust Lands Application, the Board's vote stays the same as last year. The application is due March 31. Follow up to be provided in the March meeting.

We do not have time for discussion of board appreciation nominations. This will be moved to next month.

Doug made a motion to move to the regular meeting. All members in favor.

Additional in attendance: Brenda Hall, Charlotte Potter, Cory Martin, Karen-Jane, Brandon Howe, Nick Hasenwinkle, Karlene Young, Natalie Metzger, Megan Gatlin, Tonya Crunk, Nicole Simmons, Crystal Brown, Steve Brown, Mark Zwahlen.

Lane opened the meeting at 7:05pm

Jimmy made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/23/14 meeting. All members in favor.

Doug read the mission statement.

Board Appreciation: Jimmy presented a certificate of Board Appreciation to Cory Martin for his extraordinary daily contributions to the school.

Mr. Dunkley's monthly report:

- Kevin reiterated appreciation for Cory's work in the school.
- New SIS website provides all the statistical information for the school. We currently have 404 students. Attendance is 94% average.
- In grade level meetings, emphasis on communication. Teachers are encouraged to have a blog or website. Megan Gatlin will head up the school newsletter.
- Benchmark testing is continuing in Math and Language Arts. Teachers are reporting improvement seen over last year.
- All teachers plan to return next year except one who has accepted a teaching position in China.
- Kevin has begun discussions with teachers on possible revision of the dress code policy. Currently, his recommendation is to add multiple colors of plain polos, keeping the khaki and navy blue pants, revising the shoe to solid colors. Discussion on possible difference in colors for grade levels. Discussion of jackets, sweaters, hoodies, and club pins. Further discussion is needed. This will be revisited in the March meeting. The Board is friendly to a revision, but would like it to be well-planned out. Lane suggests a committee to discuss this issue outside the board meeting. This will be revisited in the March meeting.
- Kevin sent a letter by email to parents about the climate survey, thanking them for participation and talking about some changes that are in the works.
- Kevin has talked to the teachers about why so few of them participated in the survey. Teachers said they would like to see the survey be shorter with just a few questions and more room for comment. This survey was too long and too detailed. They felt it took too long. Alisha invited teachers to please attend the Accountability meeting to help create the survey for the end of the year. We will publicize the meetings for everyone's information.

Financial report: Doug reports that he looked into the lunch program as requested at last month's meeting. He found that the lunch program is making money. Even with the up-front costs, food, and labor costs, this account is in the positive with money to spare. The lunch program also appears to be growing and is a benefit to the school. It appears most of the money is coming from federal and state subsidies (free and reduced reimbursements) with a few students paying full price.

Doug also reports that the reductions in state funding that we were seeing after October 1 have no leveled off. We are currently at 45 days cash on hand. The recommended amount is 90 days cash on hand. We are in a good position for the rest of the year, and when we begin budget discussions for next year, we will need to plan for adjustments to grow our reserves back up to the recommended amount. A question from the audience: will any teachers lose their jobs. Doug says that he does not foresee that being necessary. Lane adds that we do want to have 500 students (full enrollment) in order to have best reserves for the budget, but teachers are the last thing we would consider cutting. *ATTIC club offers to make candles as a school fundraiser ☺

Mr. Monson's report: Discussion on proposed policies. Mr. Monson requests an approval on the Employee Handbook so it can be forwarded to legal counsel for review. Since no revisions from last month's meeting were forwarded to the Board from Mr. Monson, this will be put back on the agenda for March's work meeting. Alisha will resend the proposed policies with comments back to the group, and board members will comment.

Board Training: Board members were asked to take the SCB training GBOT 15 as recommended by Marlies Burns. Board members were also asked to review the Special Education section of our charter.

Accountability Committee Report:

Meeting held on February 13, 2014 at 6:00pm

In attendance: Doug Beecher, Alisha Terry-Martin, Kevin Dunkley, Tara Freiberg, Amy Mackay, Shirlyne Quayle, Tonya Crunk.

Discussion items:

SAGE testing: Teachers are getting training on SAGE and are now able to go in and do practice tests. Teachers are reporting that the test is well written. A computer lab is being set up in the school with 25 additional computers for SAGE practice and the keyboarding class. The concerns over validity of SAGE will take from one to three years to establish. One of the recent trainings said that students are able to opt out of the SAGE test. What impact would it have on the school for the students that opt out? Last year we were penalized for the percentage of students that didn't complete end of year testing. Will that be the same with SAGE? How are our students doing? Regardless of the measurement tool, our students are doing well. We need to be concerned with PR of testing.

What are we doing to teach children who are at different learning levels? Technology is being used for this and it is a great tool. Teachers are also using a variety of different tools- individual to each classroom. Our teacher's ability to differentiate and create their own curriculum is one of the great parts of our charter. Mrs. Freiberg and Mrs. Crunk gave examples of how this is working in their classrooms.

Follow-up on Climate survey: There is a need to let the parents know that we did read the surveys, that we appreciate their feedback and participation, and the things we are planning to do with the knowledge we gained from the survey. Kevin will write a letter and bring it to the board meeting next week. Can we make a Valley Academy App that people can click on? How do we best get information out to parents? Our website gets very few visitors, but Facebook gets a lot of clicks. Email works well. When students enroll, we need to make the families aware that our communication is done electronically. There is a need for a newsletter. Discussion on who could head up this project and what should be included in a monthly newsletter.

Six Seconds/SEI: Our contact with Six Seconds has been difficult to reach for the past several months. Doug reports that this could be due to some questions over bills they sent us at the beginning of the year. Shirlyne provided some information on a new online pilot that Six Seconds is doing where educators can take free online courses to learn more about SEI/SEL implementation. There is also a more in-depth option for \$50 per person for those who want a deeper experience. Shirlyne will share the link with us and is available to help.

Charter Goals: We reviewed the charter goals from our charter contract. We are doing well so far this year. Doug will be able to offer more detailed information next month on the financial aspects of the charter goals.

PTO report: Charlotte Potter (PTO president) reports that the electronics recycle project yielded 898 pounds of items that were saved from the landfill. The reading 1,000,000 minutes project is continuing in the school. Dr. Seuss day will include several “stop, drop, and read” periods which will all count toward the minutes read. PTO has been working with student council on leadership and has been able to create relationships with Hurricane City leaders. BoxTops project is underway again for fundraising. 501C3 application is still in progress. PTO purchased several poster frames for use in the lunchroom and around the school to promote health and wellness. The PTO has also planned and is now acting on providing another large grass area and playground equipment. Much of this will be installed over spring break.

No public comment.

Ben made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm