

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
October 6th, 2016 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board
 - a. Closed session if needed
 - b. Review of High Mark letter
 - c. Review of Joel Wright letter
 - d. Board committee reports
 - i. Development
 - ii. Accountability
 - iii. Finance
 - iv. Policy/Governance

2. Welcome and open regular session

3. Pledge of Allegiance and 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.*

4. Approval of minutes from 09/08/2016 meeting.

5. Approval of Planning Tool

6. Approval of K-3 Reading Plan

7. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities?

- a. Board Training/Charter Review – “Dirty Walls” by Brian Carpenter
- b. Committee reports
 - i. Accountability
 - ii. Finance/Audit
 - iii. Policy/Governance
 - iv. Development

8. How well are the school’s finances being managed?

- a. Business Manager’s monthly report/Finance Committee report
- b. Discussion and possible action on any purchase orders over \$1,000.

9. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered?

- a. Mr. Dunkley’s monthly report

10. 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.

11. Next meeting *proposed* for November 10th, 2016.

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Work Session opened 6:03

Attendance: Gary Kuhlmann, Nate Adams, Kevin Castro, Kevin Dunkley, Lane Blackmore, Steven DeMille, Miranda Kloos, Eva Pelton, David Hinton. Ben Ruesch excused.

Gary gave us an update on litigation and progress made

Highmark letter – Lane has asked Highmark to change agreement to not include the numbers, waiting to hear back from them

Joel Wright letter – want to pay as soon as possible to settle the balance owed

Development Committee – appraisal is done and we should be receiving it soon

Finance Committee – need ideas to help us with the shortfall due to much lower enrollment than projected, currently expenses exceed revenues. We do have Title 1 money that can be used, but needs to be for specific purpose – possibly move a teacher to that role. Need to regulate hours for hourly employees. Have to look at staffing. Lane asked does our charter align with the community needs? Do we look at what we're offering and how can we enhance our programs to drive enrollment without adding cost? Kevin Castro addressed the issue of the number of kids that have left our school – we should reach out to those families to find out why. Eva has had people tell her that there are children are being bullied in our school and it is not being addressed appropriately - she will address the issue with Kevin D. Lane reinforced the grievance policy and how it needs to be handled.

Group discussion continued around enrollment – stay focused to our pillars, relooking at what are we focused on, does removing 8th grade limit our enrollment, how do the uniforms affect us, how do we build a strong base, need to stay committed to academics and arts. How does our facility hinder us and what are the benefits? How do we get our students and arts out in the community?

Possible special meeting to continue development discussion – may fall into individual committees.

Steven motioned to adjourn work session – 7:12 – Kevin C 2nd, all in favor.

Public meeting opened– 7:15

Additional Attendance: Natalie Metzger

Steve led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kevin C read the mission statement.

Steven motioned to approve September 8th meeting minutes, Kevin C second, all in favor

Planning tool and K-3 reading plan still in final stages – will be tabled until special session scheduled- options are 24th or 26th - to meet deadline.

Board training – Peggy Childs will help the board with training – mini presentations of the webinars available to us

Accountability Committee – benefits/drawbacks of having uniforms, will develop a survey to get feedback from parents

Policy committee – looked at what's required, there are a lot of policies that need to be implemented. Miranda will prioritize list and send out monthly assignments to each person to do their work.

Development Committee – waiting for appraisal to determine next move for the facility

Finance – funding will be cut by about \$100K due to much lower enrollment. Need to make budget adjustments for this. Look at other fundraisers and grants as options.

David motioned to pay Joel Wright by the first deadline for the most savings, Miranda 2nd, all in favor.

Director's report – PTO has fundraisers lined up-family movie night planned, earned about \$1400 from Penny Wars, Focus program is still going well and strong – lots of professional development happening. Bullying/Verbal & Physical is zero tolerance – have had students suspended this year because of it. SEI needs to be brought back in, however the Focus program is very structured and time is limited. Grade stayed the same, other schools in the district went down. Kevin asked about letters of intent and contracts to teachers by March 1st. He felt that last year it created some animosity and turbulence in the school-those that didn't receive contracts didn't care about testing and scores. What is our guidance going forward? March 1st allows them to seek opportunities in the district. The current contract does hold a teacher accountable through the end of the year – they are expected to perform. Steven suggested to leave it as it is.

Kevin C motioned to adjourn – 8:02, David 2nd, all in favor.