

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
October 23, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board (6:00-7:00pm)
 - a. Closed session (if needed)
 - b. Board Appreciation nominations
2. Welcome and open regular session (7:05pm)
3. Approval of minutes from 9/25/14 meeting
4. Board Appreciation
5. 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.*
we

6. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered? (7:10-7:30)
 - a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report
 - i. UCA application
 - ii. Possible review and action on Bullying Policy and Attendance Policy
 - iii. Peggy Childs- SPED plan
 - iv. Discussion and possible action on State Land Trust Application
 - v. Discussion and possible action on bus purchase
7. How well are the school's finances being managed? (7:30-7:45)
 - a. Business Manager's monthly report
8. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities? (7:45-8:15)
 - a. Board Training/Charter Review
 - b. Any reports from committees
 - i. Accountability Committee
 - c. Discussion and possible action on Student Transportation Policy
9. Public Comment (8:15-8:25)
 - 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 November 20, 2014

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

In attendance: Kevin Dunkley, Lane Blackmore, Alisha Terry-Martin, Peggy Childs, Tara Freiberg, Steven DeMille, Jimmy Ashley, Nick Turner, Cory Martin, Ben Ruesch.

1. Work session of the Board began at 6:03pm

a. Tara Freiberg presented on what SEI looks like in her classroom. She has a feelings board where the students are able to change their emotion cards during the day. This allows the class and the teacher to take emotional inventory through the day. The students have a choice to share their feelings with the class each day. Tara has a vocabulary list above the emotion chart so they can increase their emotional vocabulary (using more than one word for “happy” or “sad”). Six Seconds charts are in each classroom as well as the kids version of the chart (FOG= Feelings, Options, Goals). Tara passed out resources for the Board to view and become more familiar with SEI. **6seconds.org, edutopia.org/social-emotional-learning, casel.org

Jimmy asked how we can help our students transition from our SEI environment into the district schools? Something to continue discussing.

Jimmy made a motion to move into a closed session for the purpose of contract negotiation. All members in favor.

*******Closed Session: Began at 6:15pm*******
*******Closed session ended at 7:05pm*******

2. Welcome and open regular session at 7:10pm

Additional in attendance: Thayne Smith, Natalie Metzger, Tonya Crunk, Tonya Heyder, Amy Mackay, Marisa Monger, Emo Emerson, Charlotte Potter.

3. Ben made a motion to approve the minutes as written from our 9/25/14 meeting. All members in favor.

4. Board Appreciation: Richard “Emo” Emerson was recognized for all the great contributions he makes to the school each day.

5. Pledge of Allegiance led by Jimmy Ashley. Mission statement also read by Jimmy.

6. Agenda switch to allow Thayne to go before Kevin because he also has to attend GWA’s Board meeting this evening. In the future, we can make this a permanent change on the agenda.

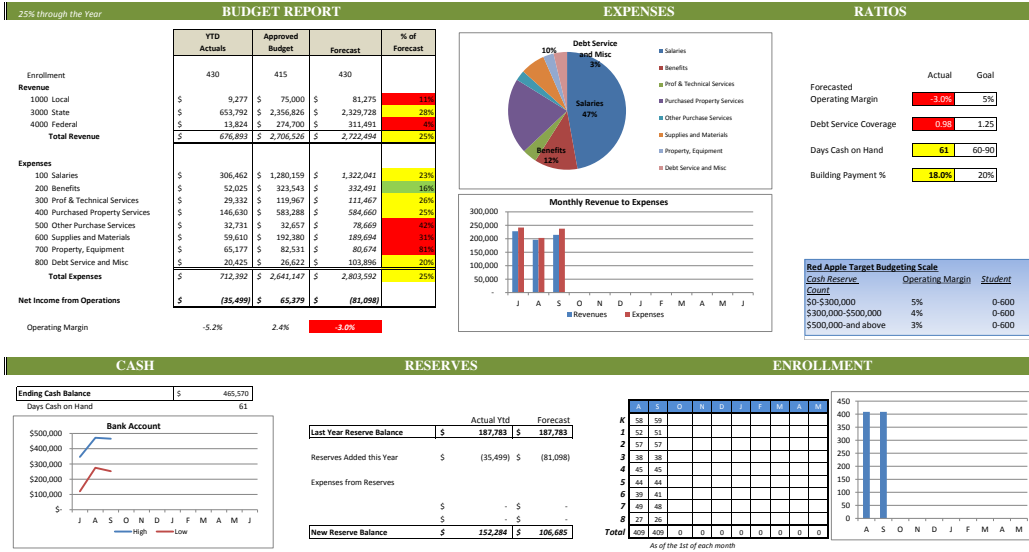
Business Manager’s monthly report (attachments below)

Next finance committee meeting: November 6th at noon in the Board room. Thayne will also be doing training for the Board on charter finance at that time. This will take approximately 30 minutes. Thayne and Kevin will have some potential budget revisions identified for this meeting.

Thayne needs some specific language inserted into our procurement policy to satisfy the audit. Alisha will make the changes and send them out to everyone. This policy change will be placed on the November agenda. Thayne states that this should be ok for the audit.



Financial Summary
as of September 30th, 2014



7. Director's Monthly Report: Kevin reports our Oct 1 count was 415. Our current enrollment is 410. We have students coming and students leaving all the time for various reasons. Average attendance is 95.63% Fridays are still the lowest in attendance. We have also had a lot of sickness go around this month. Still interested in the 4-day school week. (This will require a charter amendment).

Kevin states SAGE scores have been held and there is a lot of discussion when scores will be released publically as well as how schools will be graded because of the change in testing. Students are able to opt out of the test, and several take that option.

We have 3 Title I flags that are being worked on. We need to be letting parents know more information on what Title I is, teacher certifications need to be posted publically, and there is a concern with Karen Jane not being in CACTUS.

Kevin is attending the State Trust Lands training with a couple other staff members next week. He will let the Board know what the requirements are. Kevin says we are waiting for test scores to come back before turning in the STL application for this year.

Ben made a motion to table the bus item on the agenda. All members in favor.

Kevin stated a need to revise the current attendance policy. The policy proposed has not been sent to legal yet. This, and the proposed bullying policy amendment will need to be sent to legal for approval and will be placed on the November agenda.

Peggy Childs spoke about the school's SPED program. We were able to get a grant for SPED this year that will reimburse professional development activities. When Peggy arrived this year, there were several problems discovered with the files when they were audited. Peggy and staff members have been working hard to get all files caught up and compliant. Valley Academy has 55 students that are qualified for SPED services. This is 13% of our student body. Peggy states this is a typical percentage in our area. Peggy states that she has worked in SPED for over 30 years and she feels the SPED environment at Valley Academy is one where students can really thrive.

8. Board Responsibilities:

a. No comment on amendment to pages 11-37.

b. Accountability Committee report:

i. Continued discussion on the school's wellness policy. Further information was needed and it will be discussed again in the November meeting.

ii. Discussion of recess before lunch. Will the schedule allow for this? Benefits were discussed, such as a significant reduction in food waste. Drawbacks were discussed, such as a noisy lunchroom. More research is being done. Hurricane Elementary and Three Falls started doing this just this school year. Amy says that Gold Medal School program requires this.

iii. Working on defining the process to apply for the committee. The meeting was well attended last time. Tonya says she will send out an invitation and gather resumes.

iv. Request by parents for some type of daycare so they can attend school meetings and volunteer in their children's classrooms. Mr. Spencer and Kara Dockstader were going to research and bring back findings to the committee.

c. Student Transportation Policy: Discussion of adding a sheet to the policy that details the State Code so it is easier for people to access. Nick says the policy is needed and an amendment to the policy when the additional sheet is prepared would be advisable. **Ben made a motion to accept the Student Transportation Policy as written. All members in favor.**

9. Public Comment

a. PTO report: Book Fair is coming up next week. Several family activities planned around that. Red Ribbon Week was celebrated this past week. Kids made a pledge to stay drug free and pasted red handprints on the lunchroom wall. Mr. Dunkley allowed for a free dress day for Friday. Patriot Day project was very fun this year. Community was very appreciative and PTO is creating a wood bench that the kids will decorate to place at the American Legion building. Veteran's Day program planned. Walk to School day event was well attended. Penny Wars resulted in a Kindergarten win and a movie party for them. Three Falls is interested in doing a school vs school Penny Wars. Charlotte will announce that when it happens. Earth Science night was a great event- many community partners attended and gave presentations on everything from planets to bees to finding and creating fossils. Everyone who attended was able to leave their "fossil" in the sidewalk outside. This will be an annual event. Dixie Direct is allowing Valley Academy to be the first to sell books this year since we (miraculously) lost NO books last year. We'll be able to sell 2 weeks before anyone else. Kids are excited about the prizes. Another dough raiser is planned for the end of November.

Next Board meeting planned for November 20, 2014.

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

Meeting ended at 8:25pm.