

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
December 10, 2015 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. Discussion of board member opening
 - c. Discussion of financial services
 - d. Continued discussion of building rental agreement
 - e. Continued discussion of current policies and any other policies needed.
 - f. Continued discussion of possible building refinance
 - g. Continued discussion of legal services
 - h. Discussion of creating policy writing and grant writing committees

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

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

4. Special performance by Valley Academy Band (7:10-7:15)

5. Approval of minutes from 11/12/15 meeting

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.*

6. How well are the school's finances being managed? (7:15-7:30)

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

7. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered? (7:30-7:50)

- a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report

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 policy regarding student photos and policy manual.

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

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 January 14, 2016

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2015 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

Work meeting opened at 6:00.

In attendance: Lane Blackmore, Miranda Kloos, Kevin Dunkley, Steven DeMille, Steve Finley, Thayne Smith, Alisha Terry-Martin, David Hinton, Nick Turner, Ben Ruesch.

No closed session needed.

Discussion of Board member vacancy left by Lynn Excell resignation: Post opening. Close one week before the board meeting and schedule interviews for Jan 14 meeting.

Discussion of financial services: there has been some overspending in a couple of areas and some months will be tight for the rest of the year, but the account is being watched more carefully now by Red Apple. There may be a couple of months we will be dipping into the line of credit and Lane asks for authorization from the board to sign for that, if needed. Funds would be replaced as soon as possible. Minimum payment will be made on the line of credit for now during this time and hope that we will be able to pay off this loan next year.

Discussion of Building Rental Agreement: only needs a fee schedule. Kevin will create this and possibly be comparable to the Hurricane Community Center so we are not deterring people from wanting to use the facility.

Discussion of policies needed. Miranda will be taking charge of this. Legal encouraging looking at policies that have been used by other schools. Get some input from parents/faculty.

Discussion of refinance of the building. Joel's options don't look very good at this time due to the cost and low probability of acceptance. Red Apple recommends waiting until the purchase option in the contract 2018 or renegotiation of the contract with the landlord. If we can bump up enrollment even a little bit, we should be ok. We need to improve in budget and enrollment in the next two years in order to be eligible for the USDA loan refinance option. Joel's letter read by Kevin.

Discussion of ways to improve arts electives and gain more parent support. Finding more volunteers from the community to boost diversity is important. Improvement of arts electives for the older grades is essential to keeping them interested in staying at the school.

Discussion of a grant writing committee- teachers are interested. Miranda has been working on this.

Discussion of legal fees- continue discussion at next meeting. Legal is willing to go back to an hourly rate instead of the monthly retainer we are currently paying.

Special Band performance by 6-8th grade students.

Regular meeting opened at 7:10

Additional in attendance: Natalie Metzger, Kandace White, Peggy Childs.

Ben led the pledge.

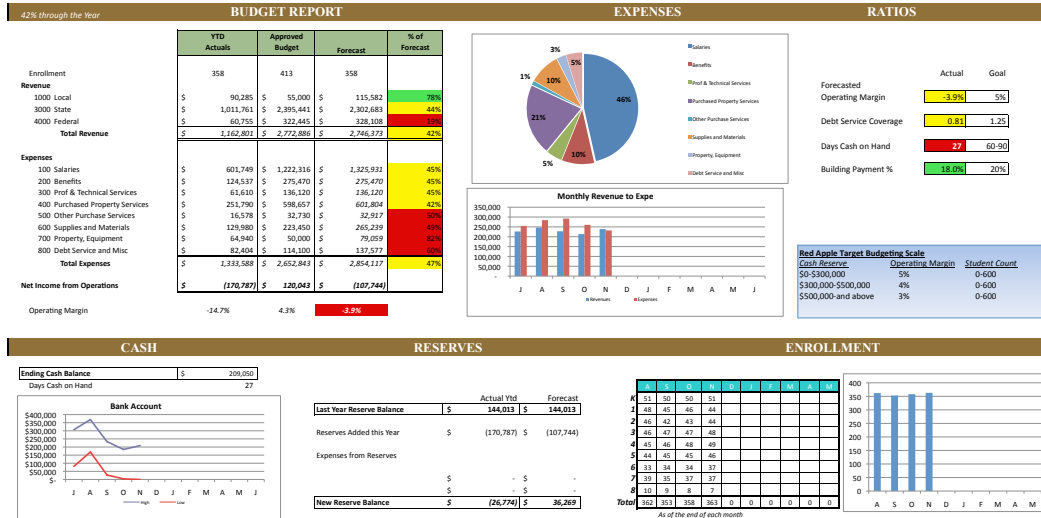
Alisha read the mission statement.

Miranda made a motion to approve the minutes of our 11/12/15 meeting as printed. All members in favor.

Financial report: State is transitioning to ADM plus growth for next year's funding. Local replacement funding will also go up to help with that.



Financial Summary
as of November 30th, 2015



Created by Red Apple

Kevin's report: sharing 2nd grade writing. Concerts this week. Kevin discussed with faculty some ideas about concert attendance. Too full in the community center for so many grades at one time. Planning to add a 3rd Kindergarten class in January. Working on attendance. We are a FOCUS school. Kevin talked about the goals and requirements that come along with that. Students are encouraged to read more minutes daily for breakfast with the principal- and that has been working well. Lockdown training with Hurricane police happened this week. Suggestions were offered by them about which doors to lock and possibly changing key locks to electronic fobs- looking at ways to increase security on campus.



Valley Academy Director's Report

Kevin Dunkley * director@valleyacademycharter.com * 435-668-7481

December 2015

Mission Statement

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

2015-16 Enrollment as of November 6, 2015: 365

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| K: 51 | 5 th : 46 |
| 1 st : 45 | 6 th : 37 |
| 2 nd : 44 | 7 th : 37 |
| 3 rd : 49 | 8 th : 7 |
| 4 th : 49 | |

* We still have 12 Kindergarten students wanting to enroll if we open another class. **377**

Attendance:

Average daily attendance comparison:

| | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| November: | 91.64% | 92.79% |
| October: | 93.07% | 95.63% |
| September: | 95.53% | 94.46% |
| August: | 95.82% | 95.63% |

Average attendance by day of the week in 2015:

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 92.15 | 94.06 | 95.20 | 95.09 | 92.88 |



December 1, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are writing to let you know that Valley Academy Charter School was designated as a Title I Focus School. This designation means that Reading and Math will be Valley Academy's highest priority. We will implement the skills and strategies necessary to accomplish the growth and proficiency required by the USOE. Intervention times are scheduled each week, where teachers assist those needing additional instruction. We have already implemented new curriculum in both Reading and Math and are excited about the progress being made. The program improvement designation provides an opportunity for principals, teachers, and parents to focus on areas of school improvement. Valley Academy and the Utah State Office of Education are working together to improve teaching and learning especially in the areas of reading and mathematics, by providing technical assistance and professional development opportunities to the teachers and administrators within the school. Valley Academy is working to improve its academic program by undergoing a rigorous two-year school improvement effort led by the School Leadership Team and supported by a School Support Team. Parents can effectively assist student achievement improvement in the following ways:

- Communicating frequently with your child's teacher
- Making sure your student attends school regularly
- Helping your student with homework
- Monitoring your student's television time
- Reading aloud to your student
- Volunteering in the classroom
- Participate in school decision-making

We want to request your help as the school addresses its academic needs, and we invite parents to serve on the committee that will develop a school improvement plan.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dunkley

Accountability Committee- Mid year climate surveys will be sent out now (earlier than last year). The surveys will be compiled in January by the committee and present the results in Feb. Discussions about strategies to engage the parents more in volunteerism.

Student privacy policy discussion. Social networking policy is being recommended. Lane asks Miranda and committee to review this along with the other policies in committee. David made a motion to table the policy for the next meeting. All in favor. Put this on the agenda for the January meeting. We currently have a simple opt out and it's an all or nothing (not even yearbook). Please provide more detail on what is needed or desired from legal.

Ben made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor. 19:56