

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

1. Work Session of the Board 6:00-7:00pm
 - a. Creation of 2014 Board Calendar
 - b. Discussion of new format for Board Appreciation
 - c. SEI training for Board members

2. Welcome and open regular Board meeting 7:00pm

3. Approval of minutes from 11/21/13, 12/12/13, and 1/7/14 meetings.

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. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered?
 - a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report
 - b. Introduction of new staff members

7. How well are the school's finances being managed?
 - a. Mr. Stringham'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: Discussion of Mid-Year Climate and Director Surveys and possible action based on the information provided.

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 February 20, 2014

11. Adjourn

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

Work meeting opened at 6:00pm.

In attendance: Kevin Dunkley, David Monson, Lane Blackmore, Tonya Heyder, Doug Beecher, Jimmy Ashley, Alisha Terry-Martin, Brandon Howe.

Creation of 2014 Board Calendar. Will be sent to Board members.

Discussion of new format for Board Appreciation. We have previously voted by email. Many Board members do not know the people nominated, so it will be more beneficial to discuss the nominees in the work meeting each month, nominating the "winner" to be recognized at the next regular Board meeting. All nominees will be kept in the stack to be considered at future meetings. We'll print a certificate to be presented that will be signed by the Board chair and the Principal. We'll make this retroactive for those who have been recognized this year already. We will also put a box in the lobby so people are more aware of the ability to nominate- students, parents, staff, anyone who contributes to the school. We would like to recognize. We'll post a picture and why the nominee was chosen. At the end of the year, we can have a nominee dinner for all those who's names were put in the box. Trent has offered a gift certificate for a nominee of our choosing. Maybe this could be presented at our end of the year nominee dinner. The nomination slips were read and Cory Martin was voted to be recognized for February.

Brandon Howe discussed a desire for a policy that would guide how money is handled between students and teachers. Also, discussed an idea for a patch for the ATTIC club. Discussion ended with a development of that idea to leave the uniform the same, but maybe have a "letterman" type jacket that clubs and school groups could put patches on. This would need to be a "uniform" jacket. Brandon will gather more information to bring back at a future meeting.

Discussion of summer school: a survey has been sent out to find out how many of our students are interested. We would also like to invite students from other schools to attend. For summer school, it was agreed that the uniform could be jeans and a Valley Academy produced t-shirt. This will be a fee-based program and the price of the t-shirt will be a part of the fee. The goal of the summer school program will be to not only offer remediation, but also a variety of interesting courses. Lunch will be offered free to all students through the State lunch program. Fees and schedule are still being worked out.

Regular meeting opened at 7:09pm

Additional in attendance: Karen-Jane, Tara Freiberg, Charlotte Potter, Amy Mackay, Brenda Hall, Nick Hasenwinkle.

Doug Beecher made a motion to accept the minutes as written for our 11/21/13, 12/12/13, and 1/7/14 meetings. All members in favor.

Mission Statement read by Alisha:

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.*

Mr. Dunkley's report:

Director's Report January 2014

Total School Enrollment as of January 21, 2014: **406**

Perfect Attendance YTD: **56 students** (no tardies, no absences)

Average Attendance YTD: **94.20%**

Average Tardies per day: approximately **20**

Grade Counts:

- K: 73
- 1st: 51
- 2nd: 34
- 3rd: 44
- 4th: 50
- 5th: 44
- 6th: 46
- 7th: 36
- 8th: 28

New Employees:

- Larry Deuel

New to Valley Academy:

- School Bus
 - Apple Valley-2
 - Hurricane-289
 - LaVerkin-83
 - Leeds-2
 - Rockville-2
 - Springdale-1
 - St. George-8
 - Toquerville-23
 - Virgin-4
 - Washington-4
- Fitness Trail
- Play Ground (Spring 2014)
- Early morning Boot Camp
- New School Video
- Summer School
- Zumba/Yoga

Electives being taught:

- Computer Keyboarding
- Choir
- Study Skills (7-8th grade)
- Attic
- Chinese
- Student Council
- Band/Strings
- Drama-Beginning & Advanced
- Art
- Dance
- Career Choices

Math Benchmarks complete for grades K-8th

Lottery Scheduled for mid-April

Grade Level Meetings

- Autism
- Benchmarks
- Special Education
- SEI
- Sage

Professional Development

- Marvin & Jessie
- Career Choices
- SEDC (Southwest Educational Development Center)
- ED Tech Integration

Additional notes from Mr. Dunkley's report:

- The bus took its first field trip today. In the planning stages of a bus route that will run around the valley.
- The fitness trail has been worked on by many parent volunteers, teachers, and students. There was a very nice article on the front page of the Spectrum about it. The whole school is using it, and there are plans to eventually extend the trail to be more than a mile long, staying completely on our school property.
- Fitness classes are being taught here before and after school: Zumba, Boot Camp, and Yoga.
- Santiago Photography is working with the school to make a marketing video. It will be a 30 second spot that will be shown in the local movie theater and posted on our website. \$500 per month cost to show in the theater.
- Jimmy brought up an idea for Kevin and an invited State Charter representative to speak to Hurricane's Chamber of Commerce about what charter schools are and what our specific charter school is doing here in Hurricane. Jimmy will work with Kevin on this.

Financial Summary Report given by Doug Beecher. Overall positive. Doug is finding out more information on how State funding flows to the school each month. Dave brought up that we have received special education funding that we were not expecting, so we are in the process of replacing general funds that were expended for special education. Question asked about if the lunch program is self-sustaining. Doug will look deeper into that, but it appears to be. An initial investment had to be made for some kitchen equipment, but we are now being reimbursed by the State for the students that are eating free and reduced lunch each day. This covers the employees and food costs. We are serving around 250 students each day. The meals are good and the students seem to enjoy them.

Dave Monson reported that he is working on getting better technology service from Skywire and also looking at other more local options for this service.

Dave sent out several draft policies for Board review. The IDEA policy he sent out needs to be passed as soon as possible because it is a State requirement for SPED. The policy that Mr. Killeen made last year was not turned in to the State and it cannot be found, so this new policy was created. It has been reviewed by Kevin and by the SPED department. Jimmy made a motion to accept the IDEA policy with the revisions made as discussed. All members in favor.

Discussion of other draft policies. These will be brought up again in the February meeting after revisions are made. The bus charge rates proposed can be used now.

Accountability Committee Report to the Board 1/23/2014

The Accountability Committee reviewed and has compiled some recommendations from the school climate surveys that were sent out to students, parents, teachers, staff, Board members in the month of December.

Participation: Students (8), Parents (108), Teachers (16), Staff members (3), Board members (4).

We were made aware of a limitation of the survey. It would only allow an individual's computer to take the survey one time, therefore, a few students who wanted to take the survey at home were not able to do so. A committee member suggested a fix to that problem would be to reset the internet connection, so the computer has a new IP address, before attempting an additional try on the same computer. Teachers also stated they were unaware that students could take the survey in the classroom. This can be resolved by better communication in our May survey.

It is unknown why all Teachers and Staff members did not participate in the survey. We have 42 total with only 19 total participation.

Observations and Recommendations:

- Uniforms: more strictly enforced, policy needs an update with more specifics so it is not left to interpretation, additional uniform colors are wanted, a model of acceptable uniform attire should be created and posted, when a student enrolls they should get a sheet that details uniform rules. Tighten up the dress code this year and start fresh next year.
- Absences and tardies: we need a policy and it should be enforced.
- Improved communication: a monthly newsletter should be created with information on scheduled activities, what's going on in the classrooms, projects the school is working on, etc. Parents want more information with more advanced notice of activities. Parents want to know how the school is doing academically compared to the state requirements. We can improve this by making available the State-run websites (UEN, SIS, USOE parent connection) for parents to reference so they have talking points with their children and their children's teachers. A student/parent handbook should be made available so parents know how we communicate as a school (i.e.- almost no paper, email, website, Facebook page, school Google calendar)
- Growth: continue to build before and after-school activities and clubs, add grades and facilities like we promised, add more play area for students (grass and equipment), renting the building to outside groups to raise funds for the school, one-to-one technology for all students as specified in the charter, more structured PE, more access to electives (high request for languages), students who need/want to be challenged need higher level learning available to them (Gifted and Talented), we have a need to produce

and publish a 5 year plan for people to reference, library, need helpers for Kindergarten teachers

- SEI: Parents and Board members want to know more
- Atmosphere: We are doing great in this area. Kelly and Keturah got high praises from everyone! We should all continue to greet, smile, and make eye contact. The new Counselor is handling many issues brought up in the surveys. Policy on bullying needs revision. A form should be created for all students that withdraw from the school (brief) so we know why students are leaving.
- Safety: Doors unlocked during pick-up and drop-off times. Check-in and badge should be required for visitors- and those without a badge should be addressed by staff. Training for student traffic helpers. Separation of younger students from older student- better supervision is required.
- Director: would like to see him at drop-off time, lunch, and in the hallway. Staff members would like to be evaluated.
- Overall: School has improved from last year.

PTO Report by Charlotte Potter: PTO has been struggling with low attendance and they are working on finding more common ground with members and also offering more activities to participate in besides meetings. PTO has recently held a successful "Feed the Teachers" event, both nights of SEP's. Christmas trees in the community center and city offices were a nice representation of the school and were appreciated. PTO purchased the Marvin and Jesse character education program for the school to use. Money from last Boxtops blitz was \$1,200. Dixie Direct sales were over \$4,000. We were the only school not to lose any Dixie Direct books. The PTO will meet with Dixie Direct representatives for next year's prizes to have more variety and fit in with our wellness policy. Concerns over the crosswalk- gathering support to talk to the city about repainting the lines that were covered by recent repaving of the road, safety lights, etc. PTO is donating money for a grass play area with some playground items. It will be located to the North of the Bungalows.

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