

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
April 17, 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 legal discussion (6:00-6:15)
 - b. Initial strategy on budget for upcoming 2014-2015 school year (6:15-6:25)
 - b. Board Appreciation nominations (6:25-6:30)
 - c. Presentation of proposed 4-day school week to Board (6:30-6:45)
 - c. Discussion of proposed school policies and possible amendments (6:45-7:00)
 - i. Uniform Policy
 - ii. Student Attendance Policy
 - iii. Field Trip Policy
 - iv. Employee Handbook/Employee time off Policy
 - v. Teacher and Staff Employment Agreements
2. Welcome and open regular meeting at 7:05pm
3. Approval of minutes from 3/20/2014 public meeting. (7:05-7:10)
4. 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.*
5. Board Appreciation (7:05-7:10)
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. Summer School
 - ii. School Bus/Transportation options for the coming school year
7. How well are the school's finances being managed? (7:30-7:45)
 - a. Business Manager's monthly report
 - b. Mr. Monson's monthly report
8. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities? (7:45-8:00)
 - a. Possible action on proposed school policies and amendments
 - b. Board Training/Charter Review
 - c. Any reports from committees
 - i. Accountability Committee
 - ii. Any further discussion on the 4-Day school week proposal
 - ii. Bio-Dome Consent
9. Public Comment (8:00-8:15)
 - 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 May 15, 2014

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

In attendance: Kevin Dunkley, Lane Blackmore, Alisha Terry-Martin, Tonya Heyder, Derek Lewis, Jimmy Ashley, Nick Turner, Ben Reusch, Doug Beecher.

Work session of the Board started at 6:00pm

- Derek made a motion to move to closed session for the purpose of legal discussion. All members in favor.

*****Closed session opened at 6:00pm*****
*****Closed session ended at 6:35pm*****

The Morris Family was selected for May Board Appreciation for purchasing and installing cupboards in the 6th grade classrooms.

Proposal by Nick Hasenwinkle on possible 4-Day School week. Board members have read through the pamphlet. Questions: Marlies asked us to see how we compare with the WCSD on Friday attendance. How do we compare? We don't know that right now. What cost savings will this have to the school? Primarily, transportation savings. Possible savings in utilities because not all classrooms would be used on Fridays. There are concerns from Board members. The survey to parents showed a 50-60% approval. The consensus was that this is a very good idea, but maybe it should be put on hold for a year to gather more information and get more parent input. Also, the approval process from the State is generally 3-6 months. We may or may not be ready for school start in August and this would effect scheduling and planning, creating more stress because of a tight time frame....not knowing if the State would approve it or not. Nick says that his research showed that about 50% of requests for schedule change were approved by the State Board. Marlies said the schools that are currently doing this are rural or were previously approved for a modified schedule. Question of how we would deal with a longer school day for the younger grades. Nick says that the teachers have discussed scheduling the core classes in the morning and electives in the afternoons for younger grades, flip-flopped for the older grades. Further discussion on this topic in the regular meeting.

Jimmy made a motion to adjourn the work meeting and move to the regular meeting. 7:00pm

Additional in attendance: Karen-Jane, Brenda Hall, Karlene Young, Stephanie Peck, Marissa Monger, Charlotte Potter, Nick Hasenwinkle.

Jimmy made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3/20/14 meeting as written. All members in favor.

Tonya read the mission statement.

Lyndi Larson (5th grade student) was recognized by the Board for standing up for her fellow classmates when she has witnessed bullying going on. Lyndi was nominated by her classmates. The Board very much appreciates her example.

Director's monthly report:

Mr. Dunkley reports that he has been working with the teachers on new ideas for improvement for next year. This includes a bus route and the possibility of purchasing another bus, Spanish classes for K-8th grade, Breakfast and Lunch that will be offered, the possibility of the 4-day school week, and Full day and half day options for Kindergarten. Working on radio and video ads for next year and for summer school. Summer school enrollment is not full yet.

Lottery was held last week. 2nd grade is full with a wait list. If the 2nd grade requests continue, we will open a 3rd class. All the other classes are nearly full, and we have open enrollment for all grades right now.

Testing also began last week. It is working well. No complaints so far. The computer lab is working out well for testing. We have not had any problems with the system. Students are reporting that the test is "fun".

Business Manager's monthly report:

Doug reports that we had a large reserve of cash from last year, and that lower than expected enrollment this year has caused us to use up a portion of our reserves. Doug requests that the finance committee meet at least twice prior to the May Board meeting in order to be adequately prepared to discuss next year's budget as required at that time. Alisha will circulate an email to the Board to help create two meeting dates for this.

HR monthly report:

Dave is not in attendance at this meeting. Nick Turner states that he only received two policies for review, the Attendance Policy and the Field Trip Policy. The Field Trip policy needs more work.

Doug made a motion to approve the Attendance Policy and hold any others for the next meeting. All in favor.

After discussion on the subject of when the Attendance Policy would go into effect, Doug made a second motion to make the Attendance Policy effective as of June 1, 2014. All members in favor. Kevin will circulate this policy to parents as soon as possible. Kevin was also asked to follow up on the policies that our attorney's have not seen yet. This includes the list from the agenda.

Discussion of the Uniform Policy. Board members are in favor of accepting the recommendation of the Accountability Committee, but would like to see the policy revised prior to taking any action. Board members expressed concern over neon colors. Alisha will revise the current policy and circulate it to the attorney, Kevin, and the Board for approval.

Lane asked for a report to be sent to Board members on how we have been doing on the State required trainings. Alisha will follow up on this.

Accountability Committee created the year-end climate and Director evaluation surveys. Concern about the Director survey being too short. Kevin says he feels comfortable with it. All Board members are ok with sending the surveys with the proposed timetable.

Additional discussion of 4-day school week. Ben suggested the creation of a Board committee that would look further into this issue. This will be called the Scheduling Committee. Lane asked that this committee report to the Board monthly. Ben proposes that we do not attempt to amend the charter for the 2014-2015 school year based on the time limitations and other

factors discussed in the work meeting. The people interested in being on this committee are Ben Ruesch, Nick Hasenwinkle, Kevin Dunkley, Tonya Crunk, and Tonya Heyder. We can also advertise for this committee in the school newsletter, by email and by Facebook.

We have had a committee working on a couple of grants for a bio-dome and increasing the gardens at the school. Natalie Metzger has been writing the grants and is almost ready to have the committee read through it. We've been getting the necessary approvals from the City, USOE, and Highmark. The Bio-Dome consent that was attached to the Board packet is what we will need to sign when we get the grant.

PTO report:

Charlotte reports that the new playground is coming along. Trenches were dug for sprinklers today, and sprinklers/grass will go in next week. SEP and feed the teachers was successful. Teacher appreciation is coming up next week. 8th grade graduation plans are also coming up. The Book Fair literally arrived at the door without us knowing about it. Mrs. Merrill ran the book fair without spending any money and it was packed every day. Lisa English also ran a book exchange where kids could bring in used books and exchanged them for others. Teachers got the excess books. Celebrating un-birthdays for the summer. Fund-raiser for Arbor Day earned about \$50. Not sure what we can get for that amount, but Kevin will talk to Star Nursery and see if they will donate. We have a couple of other donations.

Public Comment:

Brenda Hall said thank you for all the plans that are being made for the future. She is wondering why it seems that teachers leave without any explanation. She also has a concern about excitement being built in the PTO meeting, then not being able to do some of the things they plan because they are not approved. Asks if someone can attend the PTO meetings that could give insight on what will be approved or not.

Karlene Young talked about possibility of changing the charter to include the ability to charge for extra curricular activities. Currently, the charter says that ALL activities are to be free of charge. We will add this topic to the next work meeting.

Derek made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor. Meeting ended at 20:40.