

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
March 20, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board 6:00-7:00pm
 - a. Board Appreciation nominations
 - b. Discussion of proposed school policies and amendments
2. Welcome and open regular meeting at 7:00pm
3. Approval of minutes from 2/20/2014 public meeting.
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. Board Appreciation
6. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered?
 - a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report
7. How well are the school's finances being managed?
 - a. Business Manager's monthly report
 - b. Mr. Monson's monthly report
8. How well is the Board performing its responsibilities?
 - a. Possible action on proposed school policies and amendments
 - b. Board Training/Charter Review
 - c. Any reports from committees
 - i. Accountability Committee
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 April 17, 2014
11. Adjourn

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2014 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

In attendance: Lane Blackmore, Alisha Terry-Martin, Tonya Heyder, Ben Reusch, (Excused: Derek Lewis, Doug Beecher, Jimmy Ashley) Kevin Dunkley, Tonya Crunk, Stacy Sherman, Dave Monson.

1. Work session opened at 6:00pm

- Board Appreciation nominations were read. Lyndi Larson was chosen to be recognized at the April meeting.
- Discussion of proposed policies. A legal review of all policies is needed. It may be helpful to have our attorney review the policies before we review them for final approval. The policies that will be sent to the attorney for review are: Student Attendance, Field Trip, and Employee Handbook. The teacher employment agreement should be sent for legal review at the same time.

Dave says that all teacher employment agreements are standard, but may have slight variations if a teacher has some specific responsibilities. Dave will send a copy of the standard employment agreement to the board to review.

Dave will also check with Marlies on section O of the IDEA policy to make sure it is in compliance with current charter law. Dave will report back to the board on this in the April meeting. Kevin adds that our SPED department is excellent and is fully in compliance this year, aiming to be the best around.

Social Media policy needs more research and discussion. Will not be sent to legal yet. Same with Student Fees policy.

- Question of how much we are using the attorneys: Dave says that we have used their services several times over the school year, but have had less than \$10 of overage.
- Stacy Sherman (our music teacher) talked about the future of the music program. She would like to increase participation by possibly hiring a specific band teacher and moving elective club classes to before and after school. She asked if start-up grant funds that have been earmarked for the music program could be used to hire another band teacher.

2. Open regular meeting: 7:05pm

Additional in attendance: Karlene Young, Brandon Howe, Megan Gatlin, Natalie Metzger, Karen-Jane, Alicia Wiser, Amy Mackay, Charlotte Potter.

Lane requested that we change the start time of the regular meeting to 7:05 on the agenda because of the transition from the work meeting.

3. Tonya made a motion to approve the minutes of our 2/20/14 meeting, as written. All members in favor.

4. Ben read the mission statement.

5. We ran out of time to discuss Board Appreciation last month, so there is not a nominee for March. We'll have one for April.

6. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report:

- He has asked all the teachers to read, and become familiar with the charter.
- Praise for our excellent staff and teachers. Many come early and leave late.
- Our Band and Strings programs did very well at the SUPAF competition.
- We had a great first Science Fair led by Mr. Hasenwinkle. Working on collaboration between charter schools. Possibility of going to state next year.
- State Trust Lands application has been turned in. We will use the funds to continue the literacy programs in place (teachers like them), add more technology, finish computer lab and library.
- Our teachers have been visiting other schools (GWA, Vista, and the STEM district school).
- Working on BioDome, Fitness Trail, and Playground. Kevin has contacted Star Nursery and Icon Fitness for donations to help with these projects.
- Starting to research and discuss the idea of a 4-day school week.
- Preparing for the lottery- April 10th. Discussion of variations to grade configurations.
- We have two new employees this month: Andrea Vincent is working with Title I and Lori Hunt-Gentry is our new SPED para.
- We have started "student of the month" recognitions. One for each grade level. Recognition is based on grades, attendance, SEI, behavior, and the Marvin & Jesse education.
- Two of our students were nationally recognized for their poetry this month. Emily Reed (4th grade) in Mrs. Freiberg's class for her poem "Peace", and Sierra Peterson (3rd grade) in Mrs. Bowler's class for her poem "Me". Discussion of ways to enhance the school's image by showcasing talents students' work through the media.
- The question was asked if a bus route will help enrollment for next year. Kevin says that he believes it will help. The state says we cannot charge a fee for the bus, but we can take donations. Mr. Martin thinks it will cost around \$20,000 to run the bus route for next school year. Kevin is working on a plan for this.
- The question was asked if we had joined the Chamber of Commerce yet. Kevin will do that this month.

7. Business Manager's monthly report:

- Dave went over the profit and loss statement.
- Teacher employment agreements will be offered the week of April 21 after the lottery is complete.
- Our contract with Skywire has expired and we have been working with them on a month to month basis. There is a need to seek a contract with a different company. Looking at options with UEN and SEDC. Working with Jocelyn communications, which is local and offers more efficient customer service. There are some transition items to work out with Skywire.
- We have been given an extra \$15,000 in SPED funding.

8. Board Responsibilities:

- Policies were discussed in the work meeting
- Board members were asked to review the SCB required training and the Admission/Dismissal Procedure section of the charter.

- Accountability Committee report:

In attendance: Doug Beecher (committee chair), Alisha Terry-Martin, Kevin Dunkley, Tara Freiberg, Mark Zwahlen, Karen-Jane.

Discussion of policy for school staff handling money. It was discussed that our current school purchasing policy (copy on the website under “policies”) is sufficient. Staff should handle money as little as possible.

Discussion of uniform policy. Recommendation to the board will be to add several colors of polo shirts immediately. They must be solid with no logos (except the school logo). No change to pants/shorts/skirts). To be added next year will be more specific wording on allowable shoes, solid colored socks, jackets, and the possibility of button-down shirts. When students enroll, we need to have a picture of a model with acceptable uniform attire. Teachers need to keep a closer eye on uniforms. Students are able to notice non-compliance in uniforms. We are not as strict as some schools, but the uniform is important. We have uniforms for a reason. Parents appreciate uniforms, but wanted color variety for the shirts. ***Board meeting additional discussion: this topic will be added to April’s work meeting for further discussion.**

Discussion of summer school: A survey was sent out. (Some people may not have gotten the survey) 125 students were interested in attending. 8 or 9 teachers have signed up to teach classes. Lunch will be available. There will be a cost for sessions. The cost will include a 3-week session, lunch, and a uniform t-shirt. People were more interested in hands-on classes and less remediation. The proposed schedule would be to have one week off after school ends, then hold a 3-week session, one week off, then a final 3-week session. \$100 per session? Kevin says that he sent out an email today announcing summer school. (Some people may not have gotten the email. Alisha and Tara did not get it). ***Board meeting additional discussion: By the April meeting, a complete schedule and class descriptions will be available. Everyone is invited to attend, not just Valley Academy students. Two t-shirts are included in the price, not just one.**

Discussion of a possible longer school day for next year: Some teachers have come from schools that have a 4-day school week, Monday-Thursday. The proposed schedule could be 8am-4pm. We are required by the city to be 30 minutes staggered from Hurricane Elementary for traffic reasons. Teachers are currently researching options. Teachers are needing prep time. Friday could be a teacher prep day. Friday could also be a day for student to come and participate in “elective time” or “assemblies”, “fun Fridays”, etc. The extra hours M-Th would meet the requirements for our “in class” time by state rule. The longer day could allow more flexibility in scheduling the school day and more uninterrupted time for academics. More details on this in the future. ***Board meeting additional discussion: Teachers have been very active in researching this topic and plan to give a presentation to the Board in the April meeting.**

Discussion on SAGE: The State sent out brochures this past week. Testing will be available April 7th. We will try to push our testing back as far as we can. SAGE is not ready yet. Computer lab is almost ready.

Discussion of SEI: Tara has been able to sign up on the Six Seconds website and utilize some of the free training. Teachers can be reminded that these options are available. Kevin says that staff trainings will include emphasis on the 4 pillars.

9. PTO report:

- The new play area is being worked on as we speak. Lane has graded the area, topsoil will be delivered next week, Cory will install sprinklers, and then we will

plan a sod party. The area graded is large enough that we won't need to cut out grass to install the playground equipment.

- Dr. Seuss Day was a success. Many hats were sold and the "stop, drop, and read" was fun for everyone. Teachers wish we could do this every day. All minutes were added to the million minutes project.
- The additional book-fair funds will be used for the 6th-8th grade team. They can pick whatever they like from scholastic.
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be April 1 and 2. Teacher dinner is being planned.
- Valley Academy's birthday celebration is planned for April 3rd. Birthday cake will be served at lunch for those that want it.
- PTO elections will be mid April with the new PTO announced in May.
- The 501C3 application for the PTO has been completed and will be mailed in!

Public comment:

- Brandon Howe announcing that the ATTIC club is planning a Tri-School dance at the Hurricane Community Center for 7th-9th grades. It will be April 11th. The goal is to build community and better relationships between the schools.
- Karlene Young announcing the school play starts next week.

Ben made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor. 8:35.