

Valley Academy Special Public Board Meeting Agenda  
May 21, 2015 at 6:15pm  
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Discussion and possible action on possibility of charter amendment.

Valley Academy Special Public Board Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2015 at 6:15pm  
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In attendance: Lane Blackmore, Derek Lewis, Ben Reusch, Steven DeMille, Miranda Kloos, David Hinton, Alisha Terry-Martin, Kevin Dunkley, Karlene Young, Tonya Crunk, Kandace White, Natalie Metzger, Mark Zwahlen, Peggy Childs, Alicia Wisner, Jill Cotten.

Meeting opened at 6:15pm

Lane led the Pledge.

Steven read the mission statement.

Discussion on 8<sup>th</sup> grade: school staff brought a proposal to the board about the possible removal of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This would require an amendment to our charter. Previously, this type of amendment would require an application process to the State Charter Board, which takes approximately 3-6 months (based on previous amendments). Kevin asked Marlies about this amendment specifically, and she said that she could take care of this request administratively, so it would take approx 1 month.

Teachers in attendance spoke of what is currently offered to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and whether we are serving our 8<sup>th</sup> grade the best we can be.

Challenges for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students next school year: 26 students had originally signed up to return, but some have been talking about leaving because their friends are leaving, parents don't want their student going to 3 schools in 3 years, this class has approximately 50% SPED population that requires a great deal of special accommodation, creating the schedule has been difficult so far because of the loss of the science teacher and only one class of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, teachers at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level need to be highly qualified with specific endorsements.

Discussion about serving our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students better including: making sure academics stay a priority, keeping electives strong because that's what motivates and inspires the kids, possibility of online core classes, creating a plan that includes looking forward to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, creating more outdoor classroom space. The teachers will need assistance in the classroom to make sure academic needs are served because of the high level of SPED needs in this specific group of students. This discussion is good because our budget meeting is next week- we will be able to prioritize funds that are needed for next year.

Kevin brought up that plans are already being worked out for next year's schedule. Electives that are planned so far: Drama, strings and band, dance, visual arts, choir, Spanish, piano, and guitar.

No action taken at this time toward charter amendment. Follow up will be done with Marlies and other charter K-8 charter schools.

Derek made a motion to adjourn. All members in favor. 7:50pm.