

Valley Academy Public Board Meeting Agenda
Sept 14th, 2017 at 6:00pm
539 N 870 W, Hurricane, UT 84737

1. Work session of the Board
 - a. Closed session if needed
 - b. Any action necessary resulting from discussion in closed session
 - c. Annual Calendar Review

2. Welcome and open regular session

3. Pledge of Allegiance and 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.*

4. Approval of minutes from August 5th, 2017, meeting.

5. Approval of minutes from September 5th, 2017, meeting

6. Board committee reports
 - a. Arts Program Development
 - b. Accountability
 - c. Finance
 - d. Policy/Governance
 - e. PR/Marketing

7. PTO Report

8. How well are the school's finances being managed?

- a. Business Manager's monthly report
- b. Discussion and possible action on any purchase orders over \$1,000.

9. How well are students achieving the outcomes for which the school was chartered?

- a. Mr. Dunkley's monthly report

10. Public Comment

Valley Academy's Charter requires, and the Board requests, that you provide written notice to be heard for public comment. Request may be sent to miranda@valleyacademycharter.com. 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.

11. Next meeting *proposed* for Oct 19th, 2017.

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Board Members Present: Eva Pelton, Lane Blackmore, Kevin Castro, Alisha Martin, Ben Ruesch, Miranda Kloos

Additional Attendance: Gary Kuhlmann, Matt Miller, Kevin Dunkley, Shawna Iverson, Tylar Laity, Mandy Jennings, Leeanna Fenn, Janelle Ruesch, Brian Akins, Stephanie Adams, Amy Mackay, Amber Bain, Susan Gubler, Brynli Gubler, Autumn Rowland, Chrystine Hyatt, Peggy Childs, Elaina Westegaard, Leanne Worwood, Marba Thompson, Danny Worwood, Liberty Palfreyman, Dawn Holland, Charlotte Potter, Crystal Brown, Steve Brown, Jessamine Gates, McCall Griffith, Ian Griffith, Margarita Castro, Mike Hudson, Kaylee Hudson, Kelly Fausett, Nedra Keil, Tara Freiberg, Kandis White, Alicia Wiser, Nichole Isom, Keturah Rowland, Adrienne Jacobs

6:07 Lane welcomed everyone and opened the work session

6:08 Kevin C motioned to move to close session reasonably imminent litigation and to receive legal advice, Eva 2nd. Alisha, Miranda, Ben, Eva and Lane all in favor. Additional attendees: Gary Kuhlmann, Matt, Miller, Leanne Worwood

6:31 Kevin C motioned to move back into open session, Eva 2nd. Miranda, Alisha, Ben, and Lane all in favor.

Ben led us in the Pledge, Alisha read the mission statement

Kevin C motioned to approve Aug 5th minutes, Eva 2nd. Alisha, Miranda, Lane in favor– Ben abstained due to absence.

Kevin C motioned to approve Sept 5th minutes, Alisha 2nd. Eva, Ben, Miranda , and Lane in favor

Committee Reports:

Arts Program Development-Eva is working on the cards for the classroom and the t-shirt contest.

Accountability – created survey questions for survey to go out in October, will be meeting September 26th to work on Director survey, will increase communication so all parents, teachers, staff are aware of opportunities

Finance – audit is wrapped up, 700 is slightly over, haven't received federal funds yet, everything else is on track, technology is slightly high due to being front loaded, Ben asked if there were any concerns – bus was, but we've adjusted the budget for that

Policy/Governance – will send Gary's office the policies so they can continue working on them.

PR/Marketing – no update

PTO – Elaina Westegaard, activities to increase parent involvement, Fundraiser – Box Top Blitz, Sponsors for dance performances, Angel Tree, Community Outreach – Food Drive in March, used blankets/towels, Zion Canyon Music Fest – PTO is not participating. Next meeting will be Sept 21st – 5:00pm

Kevin – Green Arrow Up – Lots of progress – increased enrollment, increased scores, 20% increase in math and reading, shared projects, brand new copiers, new technology – 50 iPads for kindergartners, 50 chrome books, 5th Grade had tech-free day, 3 grades have waiting lists, Grant for buses by PTO, introduced new teachers – 351 students

Public Comment

Leanne Worwood – had approached Mr. Dunkley to volunteer, Mr. Blackmore had asked Leanne to lead up PTO because we had been told that Christie was unable to and it wasn't well received. She defended the Charter School to the district, concerned about fundraiser that allowed free dress since it strayed from the uniform policy, she was concerned about him giving \$100 and a confrontation ensued. Dan Worwood allotted his 3 minutes to Leanne. Concerned about GRAMA request and how it was not met. Requested additional training for Kevin Dunkley. Concerned about enrollment because it's new move ins not from current community members.

Amber Bain – Did not appreciate Mrs. Worwood's visit and how she stood across the hallway and gossiped. Thought it was to get her to join in, not sure what the intention was. She was present for the interaction between Kevin and Leanne and it was louder than normal, but not screaming. Referred to mission and SEI – has seen it from her peers and the students. Felt that she was being pulled into a non-respectful situation. Thankful for Kevin meeting her sons during her interview and knows them. He loves the students – wants all to follow the charter.

Alisha Wisner – Appreciate Amber for standing up and saying that we're a team. Valley's mission is character building and academics. In the first year students did not want to focus on academics which is why we lost students. Uniform Policy and fundraising – if there's an issue go to the Board. Video – she had asked Kevin to move the camera to the 3rd/4th grade hallway to see who was going into the restrooms because there had by issues. The child received the help that they needed. The monetary issue that had been brought up is PBIS which is supporting the children – it's not Punish by Rewards.

Nichole Isom – started with the school when it opened, began lunch program, volunteered many hours, did fundraiser for Laci Wallis and Mr. Dunkley. Wants to see the school succeed. Between her 3 children has had about 15 teachers and none of those are still here so she's concerned about the turnover. Daughter had an IEP and did not receive much support in 4th grade for IEP and was even worse in 5th grade. Requested meeting with Mr. Dunkley and Mr. Smith, and Mr. Dunkley did not follow through. Mr. Smith had typed up a detailed report of the students along with IEPs and they disappeared. Teachers feared Kevin Dunkley and if teachers spoke up they would be fired.

Leeanna Fenn – started the year with high moral, student count was up, scores were up, refinance is moving in a positive direction. She has spent time defending the school. Felt Leanne was bullying the director, felt that there were Board members that were attacking Kevin, asked that those issues are kept behind closed doors. Wants to focus their energy on teaching the children.

Kelly Fausett – cares about the school, children, staff so much and the people here are amazing. In the district all of schools have an administration staff and an office staff, we have 1 person doing 10 things. Apologized to Nichole Isom for what had happened. Wants everyone to come together and do what needs to be done and continue focusing on what is important and that's the children.

Peggy Childs – Has many years of experience and has been with Valley for the last 4 and has seen great improvements. Came to offer professional development before she was employed and saw a lot of challenge and they took it. She knew Kevin and with his experience and her experience they were going to turn it around. Care for the kids and care for Valley. A lot of people want to see us fail and she will not let us.

Keturah Rowland – Had been with us since 2012, is now with the district, but still loves the school. Misses the school a lot. School had started rough, but Kevin put everything in it to make it successful. Kevin needs more help so he can be a director and not deal with the pettiness. Had been approached by Leanne to find out why there was turnover and why those teachers left. She has defended the school many times and will continue to do so.

Tana Hall – Would like to the Board to consider increases for the teachers as the refinance continues to move forward.

Shawna – has never felt scared to speak her voice. In the beginning thought he was difficult, but they worked it out. He has helped her by bringing a jazz so she can do crosswalk. Wants the new teachers to not be scared because what's been brought up has been in the past. Without Kevin we wouldn't be sitting here.

MaryAnn – In faculty meeting Kevin had promised to get his administrative endorsement and if Kevin had taken those he would have been amazing. Supports the school and loves Valley. Encourages Kevin to take those classes.

Stephanie Adams – works at Hurricane Middle School and has her kindergartener here. Her child loves it. Because she works in the district she has to defend the school, but there needs to be more transparency. Feels it's about sides and we need to be in it for the kids. Asked the Board to look past the grievances and we are all in it for the kids. Wants to be able to tell everyone that their kids should go here. Wants everyone to work together and not be afraid to ask questions without getting hostile.

Ian Griffith – has had kids here since the beginning. Has really enjoyed it. Concerned about losing kids, has butted heads with Kevin, concerned with losing teachers and it comes back to butting head with the administration. Challenges Kevin to do extra things to help him excel. Concerned about the school uniform and how it has strayed. Adjustments need to be made so that the school can grow and excel.

Christine Hyatt – Commended Peggy and she is an advocate for the children. Taught in public schools, but doesn't think that it fits everyone. Her daughter had her child here and had transferred her because some things hadn't been handled correctly. Wants to see more transparency, shouldn't be afraid to ask questions and be here for the children.

Alisha Martin – Loves everyone and wants to see school successful. If anyone has questions please come to her to address them.

Tara Freiberg – Has no desire to work in district and to not know the school, Board, and deal with the back biting. Has to stay clear about why she's here – she loves the school, and we're here because we care and we have to learn from our mistakes. In order to feel supported needs to know everyone has her back, if she makes a mistake come to her, ask how we can support her, and she wants to support the Board.

Kaylee Hudson – has been coming to the meetings for a while and loves to see people here and wants to see more support for the school. We need to be a team and work together.

Lane Blackmore – controversy is sometimes good. Our clients are the students and parents. We appreciate the staff and support the school. Kevin has many obstacles and we support him in the day to day managing of the school.

Margarita Castro – travels from Cedar to work here and believes in mission. In the first year there were no supplies and Kevin was able to help her get what she needed. Also, had issues and has worked through them. Thanked everyone

Amy Mackay – Reiterated that no one has not asked for Kevin to be fired, but would like to see a change.

Lane thanked everyone for their voice and their participation.

8:18 Ben made a motion to move into closed session to discuss imminent litigation, legal guidance, and professional competence, Kevin C second, Alisha, Miranda, Lane, Ben, Eva all in favor. Eva was excused from the session. Additional attendance: Leanne Worwood, Gary Kuhlmann, Kevin Dunkley

9:59 Ben motioned to move back into open meeting, Alisha 2nd, Kevin, Miranda and Lane all in favor.

10:00 Ben motioned to adjourn, Miranda 2nd, all in favor

