

BLUE OAK CHARTER SCHOOL
450 W. East Ave., Chico, CA 95926
Charter Council
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th, 2014

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

OPEN SESSION - 6:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

2. INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

	Present	Absent
Jeff Plotnick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Louthea Griffin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Lyn Herrod	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Jonathan 'Joc' Clark	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Dave Lunde	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Rebekah Casey	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Heather Halterbeck	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

4. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS
No modifications

5. AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
Claire Hudkins-Seda said other parents interested in home school program came tonight... Kristen Oldham spoke about her desire for the program - likes part-time home, part-time in school, connection to a teacher/mentor, multi-age social group, connection to Blue Oak's festival rhythm, bridge between Blue Oak and home school community in the greater Chico area. Christina Seashore - has a current kindergartener here; finds a balance of "in-school" and home time is best fit for her family; thinks it would support integration of Waldorf values in the home. Ryan Kremer - he & wife, Candace, support the home school program. Jenny Johnston - girls age 9 & 6; 9-year-old attended kinder here and has been home schooled since then; wants to keep girls with her; at CORE they have 2hrs of instruction and then work at home; believes many at CORE would be interested in a Waldorf method. Lyn promoted the Snow Goose Festival

6. REPORTS
6.1 Teachers
Susan stated bullying awareness discussion was held with faculty.
The faculty has not yet had the opportunity to discuss the issue of computer testing; they will be addressing the issue at their next meeting and looking at what other Waldorf charters are doing in conjunction with the Alliance.

Regarding Education Director - the teachers would like to see the Education Director job description and determine what their needs might be in light of the current training that is occurring.

The 1st grade readiness meetings went very well; the consensus was that when the teacher recommends the 2nd year, it's in the best interest of the child; there have been no reports about regretting repeating kindergarten - only those that didn't repeat on recommendation. Cheryl held a 'morning in the Kindergarten' that was well attended. Barbara is doing the next 'Morning in the Kindergarten'. Susan brought guidelines for 1st grade readiness and work of the 2nd graders to review.

6.2 Parents

Damon reports that Parent Council is doing well. Regrouping after the holidays. Moving forward with parent education nights (dates coming up in February). Next meeting is Jan 28th - tasks will be assigned to each grade rep in support of education nights. Speakers have been identified and the events will be organized.

Parents have identified a need in the book bags that go home in the lower grades; will be making a list of wanted books and requesting funding from the Foundation to purchase and donate to the school. Rebekah asked if the school has ever done a broadcast request for book donations; a list might be helpful so people can purchase & donate. Laurie & Stephanie interviewed for new Library Tech today - new person should be starting soon.

6.3 Community

Summer reported that she has started compiling Leaves and presented revised exit interview per Board requests. Board commented.

6.4 Outreach Coordinator

Monica reported about expanded advertising for Fall enrollment and distributed sample ads. Played TV commercial. Will be doing advertising on KZFR.

She shared that Jacob Carr (7th grade teacher) & Shannon O'Laughlin went to India over Winter break to teach Waldorf methods to the schools established there.

There are school tours every Wednesday until the kindergarten lottery (February 12th).

Monica volunteered for a year with the Foundation, held a 2-weekend Farmer's Market test in December and is working on a Renaissance Fair as an annual gala.

She also shared about being at the Art Commission and having a former student play violin (introduced by Eric Nilsson, Principal of Inspire, as a former Blue Oak student).

6.5 CSMC - current report

Susan Powers brought financials for July through December. Gov. Brown's new budget has the positive focus of more money into education and possible elimination of deferrals in next school year. Working on CARS (Federal funding) & Federal cash management reporting - we report what has been spent so they are encouraged to send money quicker. Included a balance sheet - there are no categories that have been overspent; everything looks to be on track for the year so far. CSMC will work to get reports to the Board sooner so that they could be included in the Board packet.

6.6 Principal

Alliance conference is happening this weekend at Rudolf Steiner (Rebekah is the Board representative); The following weekend we are hosting the Hybrid training weekend on-site. The Field Trainer, Barbara Warren, was here last week and returns this week to be in classrooms, observing teachers and giving feedback. Tonight our math & reading intervention teachers will review the data regarding our growth and performance, including projected achievement.

Stephanie Nichols reviewed the results of benchmark testing for reading. Laurie clarified that the benchmarks being measured against are set by the tests (as guidelines) - our children did not get the same instruction in K & 1st, so we wouldn't expect them to be performing at the benchmarks set. The teachers are very enthusiastic about the support they are getting. Louthea recommended that Nathan start a binder to hold this kind of data to support future Charter renewal support.

Chairun Combs discussed Common Core transition and gave 7th grade example - broadens to real life application and more natural progression. Believes curriculum in use is strong. Sees the teachers making immense effort to improve math performance. There has been some struggle translating the math into real-world application. Has seen the teachers trusting the curriculum more and more. Confirmed that students excelling at math are also being pulled out for additional instruction.

6.6 Executive Director - Legal Update, Computer Update, Brown Act Training

Legal updates for this year - nutrition program has changes we are subjected to; gender identity laws affecting schools; roll call votes now required for Board action; immunization waivers for personal beliefs now requires a healthcare professional signature.

Computer update: the Computers on Wheels (COW) is here, software is being loaded - roll out will be soon; faculty to discuss/provide input for roll-out. Alliance has requested a waiver for computer testing, but there is not one now. Testing window is the last six weeks of school. Half of the computers are ready with loaded software and the other half is being completed within the month.

Brown Act training is scheduled for February 8th - 9:30am - 2pm

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes 12/10/13 & Special Meeting 1/7/14
- 7.2 Public Employment: Yard Duty - 1
- 7.3 Corporate resolution for extension of Line of Credit Wells Fargo 2014 year
- 7.4 6th grade trip to Shady Creek Science Camp Feb 3-7 2014

Joc pulled minutes for 1/7/14.

Rebekah moved to approve the consent agenda omitting the 1/7/14 minutes. Louthea seconded.

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Jeff Plotnick	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Louthea Griffin	<u> x </u>	_____	_____

Lyn Herrod	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Jonathan ‘Joc’ Clark	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Dave Lunde	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Rebekah Casey	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Heather Halterbeck	<u> x </u>	_____	_____

Motion passed by roll-call vote.

Lyn moved to approve minutes for 1/7/14. Louthea seconded.

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Jeff Plotnick	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Louthea Griffin	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Lyn Herrod	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Jonathan ‘Joc’ Clark	_____	_____	<u> x </u>
Dave Lunde	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Rebekah Casey	<u> x </u>	_____	_____
Heather Halterbeck	<u> x </u>	_____	_____

Motion passed by roll call vote

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Expansion of Blue Oak Home School, and look at Charter Document (see doc) Document has been moving forward - using Blue Oak charter with modifications to educational program to accommodate home school model. Moved opening to Fall of 2015 as Nathan has not yet located a potential authorizer. Shannon has told the teachers about the project but feedback and input still needed from them as well as the Parent Council. Lyn continues to feel strongly that the Blue Oak community needs input into whether or not resources should be invested in building this initiative. A blurb can be placed into the Leaves to invite them to an informational event. Rebekah recommends an advisory committee to support this initiative. Jeff requested that we have an authorizer by February - Nathan is working on it. Lyn insists we know whether or not it is wanted by the community prior to investing resources.

Claire is hesitant to bring it to the community as a whole when the Board is lukewarm and giving mixed messages. Heather thinks a committee is necessary now to get the responses we are seeking. Can staff be directed to survey at large? Jeff knows there is a large home school community. Jeff directed Nathan to conduct a survey, consult with staff, locate an authorizer. Dave requested clarification of program’s interaction with our current student body and skill acquisition of students learning at home; wonders what the advantage to the children is. Claire will send along additional information.

8.2 Admin Design Committee Document, discussion, areas or need, re-alignment, rationale for changes made (see doc)

Nathan directed Board to review his summary of the Ed Director job duties that have been distributed to Laurie & Nathan so that all of the identified needs in the position were covered. Lyn asked if there was a proposal to hire for this position. Nathan said no. It has been two years since the design and it needs fresh eyes. Jeff declared that it needs to go back to committee, including faculty input, to determine how things are working now, would there be funding, would it meet staff needs. Nathan recommended

reconvening a committee to examine the design and update the plan to current needs. Louthea would like the committee to look at everything. Who do we have and what are they doing now? Lyn concurs that we reinstate the admin design committee. Rebekah also supports the new committee. Jeff directed administration to form the committee, including time they will meet and to inform Board at next meeting.

8.3 Facilities- Progress report, next steps

Dave has been doing some good work; invitations have gone out via the leaves. Immediate work of the committee is to assess this building for next year. This would carry us through the next years of our current lease. Dave stated that Blue Oak cannot wait four years to decide what to do. He'd like to go to the Leen Brothers and ask to buy this property. He has had some trouble getting the committee formed; is looking to add a couple more members with specialties. The committee is still being formed and has not yet started meeting. Tighe cautioned Dave to include every stakeholder on the committee so that the proposals will have the required backing when the time comes. Prior to formulation of the committee, Dave is requesting approval from the Board to approach the owners of 450 W. East. Jeff directs Dave to have that conversation with the Leen Brothers.

9. CLOSED SESSION

9.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUTAION

Title: Executive Director - Pursuant to section 54957

Chair moved the Board into closed session at 8:40pm

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chair moved the Board into open session at 10:20pm

Report out from closed session - no action taken.

10. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

10.1 Date of Next Regular Meeting - February 11th, 2014, 6:00pm

11. COMMENTS FROM THE CHARTER COUNCIL - Agenda items for next meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:25pm