

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

Tuesday, October 8th, 2013

APPROVED MINUTES

OPEN SESSION - 6:00 PM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. **INVOCATION - Lyn**

Chair moved item 7 to follow the invocation (*notes recorded in numerical order for clarity in minutes*)

3. **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

4. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**
Request to move item 9.4 up the agenda following audience address. Request granted and item 9.4 discussed prior to reports (*notes recorded in numerical order for clarity in minutes*).

5. **AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
No address

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 Teachers

Susan reported that this coming weekend is the first on-site hybrid training weekend. There have been two webinars this week. Teacher participants have completed the 1st block of instruction and are half-way through the second. They are working lots of extra time and are enthusiastic & dedicated. Marion Gray will be coming to speak next week - she is a very dynamic speaker and teachers encourage all to attend.

6.2 Parents

Damon Fadale was introduced as the new Parent Council Chair. He reported that the council is formed. There are officers and reps. He invited a representative from the Board to attend the meetings and Lyn introduced herself to Damon as the Board rep who has been attending. The Council focus is turning to the health & well-being of the community - how to educate the new population about Waldorf education ideas &

practices and guide them in supporting the principles underlying the pedagogy. Lyn inquired about one of the new parent reps interest in being the Board liaison to the PC.

6.3 Committees

Finance committee met with all stakeholder groups represented. Discussed items related to the new funding formula. Local Control Funding (LCF) requires a committee with strong representation to meet and make decisions about this additional money - our committee fulfills this requirement.

6.4 Principal

Laurie reported about the hybrid program. The field manual is out to the teachers - Barbara Warren is the field mentor that will review the manual with the teachers. She discussed the diverse methods of instruction included in the hybrid training: on-site, web-based - including pod casts, homework, and training at Steiner College.

6.5 Executive Director- AB 484 SBA

The passing of AB 484 at the State level has retired the STAR test in California - we are now tied to the Smarter Balanced Assessment; a computerized test. We are determining how to most effectively go forward with this State mandate. The mandate is unfunded. The current technology on campus will require 37 days of testing (allowing only 2 hours each child). With 60 computers it can be done in as little as 9 days, if all students only require the minimum time suggested - but the test is not supposed to be timed. A 12-week window is allowed to complete all testing. Nathan reviewed tech requirements to administer exam. As a field test, the grades will only be tested on one or the other of ELA or Math - not both this year. If Federal gov't does pull funding as a threatened result of AB484, we would lose a possible \$80K out of our \$3M budget. Board inquired about how we get the children up to speed so they can perform well on the tests.

Jeff asked how our media policy will be addressed. This will be presented as a tool rather than a delivery method for learning - no cartoons or characters.

Shannon discussed that the media issue has to do with the effects of the screen on the brain. She sees that computer testing is something that must be done. Text to speech is an accommodation that won't be allowed at Blue Oak as we have no qualifying students. Teaching typing in the 2nd grade may be needed. Tighe says the kids only need to learn this if we are committed to a good score.

7. SPECIAL ELECTION RATIFICATION

Ratification of Blue Oak Charter Council Special Election Results - Top vote recipients Rebekah Casey and Heather Halterbeck- Approval to join meeting effective immediately.

Joc moved that the election results are ratified. Lyn seconded.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Abstained 0 – *motion carried*

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes, September 10th Regular Meeting, September 10th Special Meeting and October 3rd Special Meeting
- 8.2 Public Employment: Yard Duty - 2
- 8.3 3rd grade field trip to Farm October

	Aye	Nay	
Louthea Griffin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
Lyn Herrod	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
David Lunde	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
Jeff Plotnick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
Joc Clark	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
Heather Halterbeck	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	
Rebekah Casey	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	(left meeting prior to vote)

Louthea moved to ratify the consent agenda. Joc seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Jeff clarified comments from Sept 10th meeting regarding the test scores - the fact remains that the teachers must keep in mind what the standards are in their teaching - incorporating the curriculum and standards within the Waldorf method of delivery. This is an extra layer of work for our teachers. He respects the teachers need for additional planning to stay true to the method & still teach the standards. Encourages administration to support teachers in taking all the time they need to support them in accomplishing this complex task.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1 Approval of seeking Curricular Consultant - fiscal impact \$20-\$30K
 Support for teachers, model lessons, classroom management, etc.

Nathan discussed requests resulting from meetings with all teaching staff over the last two weeks. Last year’s budget came in \$20K under so there are some “left over” monies available to accommodate. He recommends that Shannon O’Laughlin be our consultant to the faculty. Five teachers are not included in the hybrid program that continue to need support. Shannon spoke to the need for a more available on-site mentor, dealing with specific needs or struggles that teachers may be having; additionally she will be able to provide model lessons to support teacher learning. This would not be a replacement for Barbara Warren; she has different areas of expertise. This is not an evaluating position, it’s a support position.

Discussion followed regarding possible structure, schedule, specific needs for this role and ongoing mentorship. Education Director was a role that was designed by previous Board - could this person fulfill that role on a part time basis? Jeff would like the staff, as a whole, to respond to this. Given the specialized nature of the position, we need to have the right person and their role must be clear. Jeff would like Nathan to go to the faculty and have a facilitative discussion with them about this resource; and clarify the

needs and coordinate support. The proposal for service is requested for final approval. Dave believes he's heard about this position for some time and if this need is time sensitive and the teachers require this support it should be approved without further delay.

Dave moved to approve a curricular consultant position. Heather seconded.

Ayes 4 Nays 1 (Louthea) Abstained 1 (Joc) – *motion carried*

9.2 Approval of CDI Quote # 1053280 - 60 Unobook Tablets

Nathan discussed the research involved in locating computers that meet the requirements for taking the tests. CDI built computers to specifically meet the requirements. These come with a 3-year guarantee. This machine is the 2nd version.

Damon reported out from parent council perspective. There is resistance to computers in the school - we are always going to get that. Melonie Ensign expressed her concern for both the computer introduction and the pricing - concerned about a possible shortfall of funds and a desire for competitive bidding. Nathan says there were competitive bids and while the funding is expected from the State (LCF), we must rely on the State sending the funds as promised in July of 2014.

Joc asked if there was any accommodation available so that we might NOT use computers; or any way to petition for an exception. Nathan says there is no accommodation this year - as a pilot year. There is a contingent looking for that kind of accommodation. Heather asked if this decision could be delayed while waiting to find out if accommodations will be allowed and whether or not we have the funds to front this purchase - Nathan responded that we would lose a month of practice for our students if we waited and that the funds are available. Lyn believes that it is more complex of an issue - the writing is on the wall that testing is going to computers; we need to be looking seriously at getting this going.

Dave moved to approve the CDI quote for Unobook tablets. Louthea seconded.

Ayes 4 Nays 2 Abstained 0 – *motion carried*

9.3 Board Retreat - Set Date Time, Agenda Topics & Training, costs, location, etc.

Discussion about the Board Retreat; Nathan wants to make it a Brown Act review. Jeff is looking for more opportunity to build relationship between the members.

Schedule: Saturday, November 2nd (6- 8 hours) include food. Suggested location should be comfortable and convenient. 7 board members & 2 administrators. Sky Creek Dharma Center? Joc has a schedule conflict and won't be able to attend.

Go through experiences, learn something more about each other, and learn about the vision of the school, thinking of the future of the school... Common Core; Steiner College; Waldorf Methods.

Request to schedule a Brown Act training (Nathan suggested January time frame)

9.4 Homeschool discussion, charter, funding, location, authorizer, etc.
Jeff opened discussion of homeschool option to gauge the level of interest. Claire Hudkins-Seda discussed the interest level as she understands it. Community was disappointed in pushing back the potential opening by a year -- 18% of the people who saw the message on Facebook page expressed strong interest in a homeschool program. Claire shared sentiments as written by interested parties. Lyn requested a count be provided to the Board. Louthea clarified that what was delayed was Nathan's time to invest into writing a brand new charter in a year when the school is quite busy - and without knowing how many are interested, seriously, how many potential families would participate. The Board expressed strong interest in supporting a charter and suggested that a group of parents take on the writing of the charter and use Nathan as a resource, rather than Nathan writing it himself. Six to eight months is the minimum time needed to write a charter. It's not impossible to get this done for a fall 2014 launch - it is a time crunch. Claire will be gathering a group to begin work on this. Need a minimum number of students in place to successfully request these starter grants.

9.5 Reading Program- Matrix, current vs. historical vs. charter

Louthea requested to table this item and move it to the November 12th meeting.

10. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

Retreat scheduled for November 2nd.

10.1 Date of Next Regular Meeting - November 12th, 2013, 6:00pm

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

Homeschool update

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned meeting at 8:28 pm