

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

Tuesday, December 10th, 2013

APPROVED MINUTES

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 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**

Lyn questioned the contents of the packet for homeless policy and administrative commission report. It was noted that these were included in the current packet. Heather suggested we print two-sided.

5. **AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

None reported

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 Teachers

Susan Whittlesey wished to advertise the Winter program. Festival of Lights is being celebrated this week. 2nd grade celebrated Santa Lucia. There is a light spiral planned for tomorrow. There is also a celebration of the menorah. A sample of the lantern walk was shared. Additional samples of student work were presented. Enjoying the cold weather and Jack Frost.

6.2 Parents

Autumn Field, parent council co-chair. Council met last night. Discussed parent ed evenings and Nurtured Heart mtgs. Third Thursday of February and March and 4th Thursday in April. Parent ed to benefit the BOS and Chico.

6.3 Community

Concert tomorrow at 6pm. First call for hours. Participation hours were tallied. 280 families Goal is approx. 14,000 this year 27% achieved for the year. The binders have been successful.

Copy handed out of the dates to remember. May Faire date confirmed.

Data reformatted per request for exit interviews. 56 did not return from prior year. 17 exits this year. 6 due to moving. 2 brought up issues at the school. 2 siblings left. 7 remaining that miscellaneous nothing super serious, family issues, or unfamiliar with the Waldorf method prior to enrollment.

6.4 Principal

Postponed until 7pm

Laurie has invited Stephanie and Chairun to the next meeting.

Heather inquired about the identification process of students being referred to the intervention programs

6.5 Executive Director - Computer Equipment, Brown Act Training, Org Chart
Putting the COW together in the mornings. Will roll out in January. Upper grade teachers are excited to utilize the computers for the students to do research projects.

Contacted an attorney to schedule Brown Act training. Weekday evening or weekend choice. Possible to do a daytime training? 1/17/2013 Alliance conference date **Work day Feb 8th established as training date.** Louthea asked for a Q&A training. Nathan stated there is a plan for questions and topics can be submitted ahead of time.

Draft of org chart for information purposes not included. Will be forwarded to board tomorrow.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 ~~Approval of Special Meeting Minutes 11/14/13, 11/20/13, & 11/22/13~~

7.2 ~~Public Employment: Counselor – 1 Yard Duty – 1~~

7.3 Change of Calendar: Add Jan 20th as holiday to Calendar

7.4 Approval of Librarian Tech job description

7.5 B.Lee 5th grade overnight field trip to San Jose & Marin County

Dave moved to approve Consent agenda. Lyn seconded.

	Aye	Nay
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 unanimous vote.

Approve 7.1 without 11/20/2013. Motion Louthea, Rebekah second.

	Aye	Nay
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>

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approve 7.2 with just the counselor position. Motion Rebekah, Dave seconded.

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

Motion carried by majority vote.

- Lyn requested the minutes be distributed sooner.
- Louthea requested positions not be hired until job description is approved. Positions that are new to the board need to be cleared prior to hiring. Louthea would like to know the rationale for the position, not just whether the position is in the budget. Heather H. asked why not advertise on the school website -, Lyn concurred. Jeff re: school counselor position not informed. Would like to have information about the positions being hired. Nathan described the qualifications of the counselor candidate. Nathan described the differences between the consent agenda items and up to the school administration. Rebekah spoke to the org chart and questions about the knowledge of what this person will do. Difference between traditional school counselor and a crisis counselor. Jeff spoke to the need for quality school counselors. Let board know in the future when these positions are being advertised. He would like to be front loaded with the information. Heather expressed concerned about the definition of a traditional school counselor as opposed to a crisis. She commented that this may be a need of an expanded position that includes services of a counselor with school-based experience. They discussed the model of the reporting mechanism. There was a committee formed for hiring the counselor position.

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Approval Interim Report to be submitted to CUSD, BCOE, and CDE (see doc) Document review that contained info the board was most concerned about. He noted the budget is in good shape and the approved expenditures are included in the budget.

Susan Powers reported on the financials from the CSMC. We have decreased funding due to the decrease in projected student count.

Louthea asked about results of the advertising expenditures. She noted the ad in NorthState Parent magazine really captured the Blue Oak Waldorf school.

Discussion re: drop-in enrollment. The budget used the enrollment number of 404.

Louthea - this is a snapshot of the 1st interim updating the budget from July. Attendance report P-1 coming out at the end of the month.

Louthea moved that we approved the Interim Report. Joc seconded.

	Aye	Nay
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 carried by unanimous vote.

8.2 Change in Blue Oak School corporate documents to include ability to expand to more than 1 school, cost associated with attorney's fees and filing with Secretary of the State, expansion of Blue Oak Home School, and look at Executive Summary (see doc)

Nathan stated that it takes 6 weeks to file for the approval from the Secretary of State. Rebekah asked about the process to submit to board for approval. The time line of the filing and approval process. Lyn thought we were to poll the BOS population if they want to do with this idea. Louthea thought that there would be a representation of a population saying that they want the school.

[7:08pm item postponed]

8:08 pm: One room school house program. Opening it with 25 students. 10 interested this year, 8 for next year. A number of others have expressed interest in the program. Most of Claire's time has been spent writing the charter petition. She asked if the board was interested in the program. Jeff asked who she was using for a resource for the document.

Nathan discussed initial finance grant \$250K. Cost of the teacher - possibly pro-rating salary. The administration and some services would be provided by BOS. The BOCC would be the board for this school. The corporate document needs to be changed to allow us to have more one school. \$6K per student per year.

Louthea is concerned that BOS community has not been polled to see if they are interested in the program. Claire stated that this has been a word of mouth movement for interest. Louthea reiterated that she does not feel that the BOS community has been notified. She is suggesting that it is a private endeavor that has not been endorsed by the community.

Jeff - changes to the BOS corporate document vote contingent on the survey of the population. Lyn asked about the legal fees. Rebekah asked about the duration of the funding. Susan Powers clarified the process of the funding based on the timeline.

Heather - going into this late in the process. She has heard feedback regarding this educational option. She feels this is doable.

Summer stated support of the program, however, she does not agree with the change in the corporate documents because there is a lot going on with the staff and she feels this will affect the school. She is concerned about students going to the new program from BOS. She does not agree with yet another expenditure.

Claire spoke about the popularity of homeschooling in Chico. She stated that Monica is approached about homeschooling with Waldorf support.

Dave Lunde expressed his concern regarding the concept of homeschooling and perceived benefits to this educational choice. The curriculum is the same as what is taught in the BOS.

Jeff stated that this is a simple corporate document change. He decided to call for the BOS corporate documents.

Heather moved that we approve changing corporate documents to include ability to expand to more than 1 school. Joc seconded.

	Aye	Nay
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 carried by majority vote.

Closed session 8:32.

8.3 Approve Student Policy #26 Homeless Policy (see doc)

Discussion took place re: the policy. Unaccompanied student definition discussed. Agency support for students was discussed. Louthea questioned the liaison role. Nathan

stated that must be a full-time employee. The admin can delegate to another employee if needed.

In line with the policy of other charter schools. Joc asked who is the go-to person typically in schools. Laurie stated there is a need to have a resource person who is more skilled than she is. Jeff to work closely with Laurie and Nathan to address the needs of these students. Nathan stated the policy has been required since 2001. Discussion re: admin. Assignment of responsibility to be discussed.

Laurie sees that position work in concert with the counselor. She also stated that Nathan would be a more natural fit to this position.

Joc moved that we approved Homeless Policy – Student Policy #26. Heather seconded.

	Aye	Nay
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 carried by unanimous vote.

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

Draft of the new organization chart requested by Rebekah. Louthea requested this item be tabled. Rebekah asked for the framing of this piece. The piece of the education director is missing in current operation. Student discipline is an issue as it is not in Nathan’s job description. Has a draft to share in closed session. Discussion ensued re: a report to evaluate the structure. Louthea pointed out that Jeff is the only one who was here when the document was developed.

8.5 Budget Development Calendar, timeline, content, finance committee, student program development

Working backward from the June adoption of the budget for the next school year. May April LCAP draft budget to the finance committee. By March CDE should have the templates available for LCAP. Jan and Feb - finance committee budgets for next year with parents and others. Discussion of various factors were considered. June will have a finalized budget to approve.

Jeff explained about the process, which begins tonight, to develop a budget with all things considered. We have a rare opportunity to look at our budget and view the allocation of funds to best meet the needs of the students. We will partner with CSMC,

parent community, teachers, and others. Reduction in federal program has been spoken of in other budgets he has reviewed. Info item only. Reaffirmed the board is responsible for the budget.

8.6 Assemblies concerning issues of Bullying and Gender education - Board to help create direction for these areas of parental and board concern.

Heather has spoken to the bullying issues. The materials were emailed to Nathan > Michael Pritchard presenter. She spoke of his qualifications. He speaks about bullying. She discovered the clip in the documentary “Happy.” She has previewed the videos with her son. She will bring the information to the board. Under \$5K would bring 1 parent ed and 3 assemblies. Open to no media policy. There is talk and possibly a need for this. Louthea asked parent council re: the need for this program.

Susan W. addressed the board stating her experience with bullying in kindergarten. She has had success with the Nurtured Heart Approach.

Laurie discussed fostering the image of human being that gets to the student. The teachers are protective of this image. Social skills group has been requested by the teachers.

Additional discussion was held regarding this topic.

Jeff discussed creating a threat-free environment As a school this hits at the heart of Waldorf. Kids given skills to deal with these situations.

Susan W discussed dealing with bullying on an individual basis. Segregate from the family vs. school environment if this is an issue. Jeff directed Susan W. to go back to the teachers to assess the need of this topic.

Rebekah appreciates the view of the principal for Waldorf. She expressed concerns about the responsibility of the board to address the bullying issue and the residual and collateral effects of the bullying experiences for all involved.

Tighe shared regarding the class-specific approach to bullying and additional comments. He talked about the definition of bullying.

Jeff stated the board is interested in this topic and in creating a safe environment where our children feel safe at our school. Discussion is not over.

Nathan discussed gender policy spectrum piece. How do we want to address this as a school? Gender Spectrum Company could be his recommendation for contracted training for adults. Heather recommended Stonewall Alliance to Nathan. The law was overturned and is in stasis. We must consider of all the pieces of the issue. HH spoke to the need for overall acceptance of differences.

Joc stated this is one of the big social issues of our times. We need to find the best resources that will professionalize the schools approach to these topics.

Tighe stated parent education night should be held first. He would have appreciated knowing there was a presentation being made to his children in the classroom.

Catherine K discussed her opinion that this training should be extended to all of the staff in contact with the students. Nathan will do more research for a future meeting.

9. CLOSED SESSION

9.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUTAION Title: Principal - Pursuant to section 54957

9.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUTAION Title: Executive Director - Pursuant to section 54957

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

No action taken.

10. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting - January 7th, 2014, 6:00pm

Date of Next Regular Meeting - January 14th, 2014, 6:00pm

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:25 pm