

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

Teleconference Location
Pursuant to Section 54953. (2)
Marin General Hospital 250 Bon Air Road, Greenbrae, CA 94904

Tuesday, May 13th, 2014 - 5 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

OPEN SESSION - 5:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

2. INVOCATION

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>
Jonathan 'Joc' Clark		<u> x </u>
Rebekah Casey	<u> x (5:14pm) </u>	<u> </u>
Heather Halterbeck	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

4. AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

K. Scott - here for 2 months - 3rd grader in Mrs. Chew's class, believes in looping. C. Gausamel, Adam in Mrs. Chew's class, synopses of letter sent to BOCC directly - supports Mrs. Chew and the principle of looping. J. Carr, parent & BTSA provider, has observed the amazing growth of Mrs. Chew. J. Slupski - seconds all of the wonderful things everyone as said - she observes teachers in other setting and is grateful to have her son in Mrs. Chew's class; completely confident that Mrs. Chew is capable of teaching this class of children everything they need. S. Logan has a son in Mrs. Chew's class and is her partner in keeping him settled and IN class - this is our family - we want to support her in the choice to continue or move back to 1st. J. Ferrini - has a daughter in Mrs. Chew's class - she has been instrumental and supporting her development - losing her would be a big blow. P. Slupski - son is in Mrs. Chew's class - not a big Waldorf or Blue Oak guy, but wife & boy love this school; what is happening here is important and different - the classroom community is a place that works together in a way that simply does not happen elsewhere; if she's failing, it might not be on her... if the underlying issue is not addressed; J. Jackson - daughter in Mrs. Chew's class - before coming to Blue Oak, she hated school and was performing badly - now she loves coming to school, is reading several levels above; L. Lander - has a son in Mrs. Chew's class - he hated going to school until coming to her class, he is lit up coming to school; all of the children learn from the other children in this class. C. Kirkland shared an excerpt from Steiner writings. E. Berg,

this is a family that extends beyond just Mrs. Chew - the school has tried this (removing teacher supported by parents) before and has suffered grave consequences; L. Rice has been here for 4 years, has a daughter in Mrs. Chew's class and was excited about it from the second she arrived for the tour - her daughter, who resisted reading is now reading with enthusiasm - this family would be broken without Mrs. Chew; we are fully confident that she could take the class all the way through 8th grade - the problem is with the administration, not with the teacher. M. Ensign spoke about supporting teacher looping, the children have formed a heart bond with their teacher; the issues are about lack of accountability in administration - the system needs to support faculty and staff. T. Chew, Mrs. Chew's husband, has never heard such support from parents in 33-years of public education; this is a no-brainer - if the kids support her and the parents support her, I don't know what the issue is. J. Moore has two students here, not in Mrs. Chew's class - she pleads with the board to listen to these parents, she lost her teacher two years ago and it devastated her family and the family that was the classroom community... whatever this issue is, needs to be dealt with. T. O'Neill, not a parent in Mrs. Chew's class - first, thanks to all of the parents for being here - I sat in Jeff's chair two years ago when a teacher was let go - he believes there is a fundamental misunderstanding of the administration that parents need to be factored into the decision making process; encourages the administration to understand that their opinion is just one opinion. S. O'Neill - was here when this happened two years ago; without the parents, there are no children, and to disregard the parent's opinion is just absurd.

Board moved into closed session at 5:48pm

5. CLOSED SESSION

5.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE: DISCIPLINE/DISSMISSAL/RELEASE

5.2 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: 450 W. East Ave Chico, CA 95926

Agency negotiators: Nathan Rose & Dave Lunde

Negotiating parties: Blue Oak Charter School and Leen Bros.

Under negotiation: Instruction to negotiators will concern price and terms of payment

REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION - 8:00pm

No action taken

Open session returned at 8:12pm

6. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Eliminate Section 8 reports with the exception of 8.7 (so that Genesee S., Counselor, can report) and Items 9.4 and 9.6

7. AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No open session comments

8. REPORTS

8.1 Teachers

8.2 Parents

8.3 Community

8.4 Outreach Coordinator

8.5 CSMC

8.6 Principal - Assessment plan

8.7 Executive Director - Smarter Balanced Assessment Update

Genesee Solaman is working with 29 children; 10 having crisis situations that were able to be supported. Seven of the 10 now have community-based support outside of the school environment and are doing better. The other 19 families have been referred and connected to outside community services. There is a much greater need than seven hours per week. With 18 more hours per week, more difference could be made, more kids could be served, groups could be coordinated, trainings about crisis circumstances could be delivered (based on expressed teacher needs) and coping strategies delivered to avoid unnecessary resets.

9. BUSINESS

9.1 Review of 2012 Tax Return - State of California and Federal Board reviewed the tax return

9.2 Admin Design Committee - recommendation of reporting structure/organization chart, evaluative nature of the Education Director (Louthea G)

Louthea discussed the faculty's vote that teachers report to the Education Director. Three recommendations from ADC were to:

1) approve the position of Education Director; (approved by BOCC at Special Mtg 4/28/14)

2) have faculty report to Education Director ; and

3) change reporting structure so that Director & Principal report directly to the BOCC.

Legal issue with third recommendation - it is at variance with Director's job description. Jeff stated that we must honor the contract as written. The Board could vote on this recommendation tonight and requested that the Director rescind this section of his job description or it could be voted in for the contract period. Joc says we could also strike the recommendation wholly.

Lyn moved to approve faculty reporting to Education Director, Joc seconded.
 Roll call vote:

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

Motion to have faculty report to Education Director approved.

Dave moved to table recommendation to change reporting structure for 2014-15 school year. Jeff seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Motion does not pass.

Joc moved to approve the recommendation to have Director & Principal report directly to BOCC, Lyn seconded.

Dave discussed: no strong working organization functions without one leader. Joc says this will provide a check & balance and that innovative companies have two leaders - it will take more work at the start but he believes it can work. Jeff sees this as requiring the Board to be much more active than it has been - it would require a new role & responsibility as it would be direct evaluators of both administrators. Jeff asked how the Board could effectively do this with positions that it does not have contact with - it would require much more active involvement of the Board in operations. With the addition of the Education Director, rolls could be made more clear; all three would be working together, all three would work together with respect to budget, policy and management of the school, but ultimately the Board would be responsible for those decisions - on a day-to-day basis. As far as the contract is concerned, Jeff is unsure if we are in a position to violate the contract. Our actions may not even be legal. Louthea voted no on this during the ADC meetings - she did not see how the Board could possibly have any idea what the Principal was doing from one day to the next. It looks like a disaster to Louthea for the Board to take on this responsibility. Jeff states it brings into question what happens if there is a conflict between staff and the Principal - staff would

have to report directly to the Board. T. O’Neill commented. Joc commented about growing pains with more special needs students and more demands on our administrators - we should build in structures as we go. Rebekah discussed the need for more attention on student achievement and the faculty may have been more in support of the idea because they thought it would be a more direct line for them to have this attention from the Board. Heather believes the committee was put together thoughtfully and the recommendation should be listened to.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion does not pass. **No change in reporting structure.**

9.3 LCAP/Budget Update - 2014-15 school year Draft LCAP and preliminary budget
(Nathan R)

At the last LCAP mtg Nathan presented an unbalance budget. The current student count for 14-15 is 414. Recommendations received during closed session will be discussed with CSMC next week and a budget will be in the ‘red’. We must plan to increase student count which will increase income. Joc asked clarifying questions regarding income increase options available.

9.4 Special Education Report - MOU with CUSD and next year’s plan (Heather H.)

Heather discussed a meeting she & Laurie had with Dave Scott, CUSD Assistant Superintendent in charge of Special Education. He suggested that Blue Oak strengthen the Tier II program services. There would be great value in creating an assessment process to assist in earlier identification of students that might need services. CUSD could come to Blue Oak to train teachers in referral process. Alternatively, or in addition, Blue Oak could train CUSD staff in our approaches. Currently 11% of our population is served by Special Ed - this is fairly average for the District. We could have an additional .5 FTE person added next year. Louthea asked whether or not we will be receiving more speech - Heather reported that it is a parent-driven process. More services come in response to parent pressures. Rowell is a free resource available to support parent information and advocacy. Far Northern Regional is another resource as well as Victor (school-based for Medi-Cal qualified).

9.5 Facilities Committee Recommendation - see attached build out plan (Dave L)

Nathan shared that CUSD offered us two portables at \$1/each plus moving costs. Landlord has approved placement & City has approved placement. Dave says that if we move forward with the plans as they are, we are 4 weeks for permit processing, 2 weeks for bid writing - construction unlikely to be complete until October 1st. Dave recommends that the Board approve the committee's proposal. Rebekah requested that the issue of the portables comes back to the Board with all of the hard costs. Louthea is concerned about student safety if construction continues past the start of school. The decision needed is whether to go ahead with getting permits & bids.

Jeff remanded the item to the Special Mtg scheduled on 5/29 so that we will have a better idea of costs.

9.6 Board Complaint Procedure- up date to policy to recommend standard operating procedure to existing policy. (Louthea G)

Tabled until next BOCC meeting

10. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

10.1 Date of next Special Meeting - Thursday, May 29th, 2014, 6:00 PM
Date of next Regular Meeting - June 10th, 2014, 6:00 PM

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

Items 9.6 and reports

Budgets

Facilities

Cap Chew's class size.

June 10th meeting will have current board making final decisions and then ratifying election results One community member position remains open.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:58 pm