

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

Tuesday, September 10th, 2013

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APPROVED MINUTES

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**OPEN SESSION - 6:00 PM**

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

2. INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

	Present	Absent
Jeff Plotnick	<u>  x  </u>	_____
Louthea Griffin	<u>  x  </u>	_____
Lyn Herrod	<u>  x  </u>	_____
Joc Clark	<u>  x  </u>	_____
David Lunde	<u>  x  </u>	_____

4. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS  
No agenda modifications

5. AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL  
Susan Whittlesey - first weeks have gone by very well. Excellent group of parents that want to participate.  
Heather Halterback introduced herself to the Board as one of the applicants for parent board seat.  
Tighe addressed a concern he was left with from the last meeting. Was concerned about how the reading program was related to at the last board meeting. Reiterated that our lower grades test low in reading. There are longitudinal studies that support the method we have employed up to now. Expressed concern that his 1<sup>st</sup> grade son is not getting the same patient support that his now-blossoming 4<sup>th</sup> grader received.

6. REPORTS  
6.1 Teachers  
Susan Whittlesey introduced as this year's teacher representative to the Board.

## 6.2 Parents

Parent Council has not yet convened for the year. New candidates for officers have been contacting Laurie & will be elected at the meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 6.3 Committees - Harvest Festival

Festival committee of parents with R. Ginney (faculty rep) have met several times. Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Planning is going well.

## 6.4 Principal- All School Meeting

Laurie reported that the meeting was well attended. Nathan discussed the changes in attendance accountability. Cat discussed the meal service modifications required due to the bell schedule changes. Laurie shared the faculty-established field trip principles and touched on key points of the new processes. Nick Meier discussed the teacher hybrid program. Laurie discussed the five school goals and three core values.

## 6.5 Executive Director- STAR Test Score Results, API, and Office Re-Organization

Nathan discussed the 48-point drop in API. He detailed the drops in scores by grade and the changes in programs & students. The final look at the data is by teacher. This year's focus is on using Common Core to move to the next level. Last Thursday, legislation was introduced to suspend the STAR test and have all State schools take the Smarter Balanced Assessment as a pilot school. Nathan would like Blue Oak to be a pilot school this year. This would allow for the last 3 years of scores that impact our charter renewal to have two years of practice prior to scores that counted. Joc requested an API estimate without 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> scores.

Jeff discussed his impressions of the impact of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade scores. He thinks there are some structural issues to address. Feels strongly that we should continue with the Waldorf-methods focus and not succumb to the temptation of abandoning our values just for scores. The suspension of STAR tests makes this moot & if we go on to be a pilot school this becomes even less relevant. He cautioned the board from overreacting. Our program is deepening. We need to hold steady.

Kate Holmes has taken over supporting Laurie & Nathan doing student discipline and organization. Amber Bass, the new receptionist, is great in the front, seeks clarification and performs well. Jeff commented about the importance of having a strong admin team.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

### 7.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes:

July 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting

July 30<sup>th</sup> & August 13<sup>th</sup> Special Meetings

7.2 Public Employment: Reading Aides – 2, Yard Duty – 3

Lyn moved to approve the 2 reading aides & 3 yard duty hires. Joc seconded.

Roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Jeff Plotnick	<u>  x  </u>	_____	_____
Louthea Griffin	<u>  x  </u>	_____	_____
Lyn Herrod	<u>  x  </u>	_____	_____
David Lunde	<u>  x  </u>	_____	_____
Joc Clark	<u>  x  </u>	_____	_____

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Approval of 2012-2013 Unaudited Actuals as presented by CSMC.

Susan Powers discussed the Unaudited Actuals and minor change to the restricted fund column.

Joc motioned to approve the Unaudited Actuals as modified by CSMC. Lyn seconded.

Ayes   5      Nays   0      Abstained   0      – *motion carried*

8.2 Interview and appointment and/or authority to issue Special Election of candidates for Open Charter Council Seats (2)

The fact that all three applicants are qualified for the positions necessitates a special election to the parent body. Jeff suggested that the administration guide the election. Joc wondered if this was a conflict of interest. A committee of parents is needed to be sure that it is a fair & equitable election and that all community members are able to vote. Joc inquired about waiting a month for the parent council to get up & running. Jeff believes that we must take action sooner rather than later.

David moved to begin a special election process. Lyn seconded.

Louthea requested that the candidates be given the opportunity to request confidentiality of any portion of their application. She also requested that several methods of communication be used to promote the election. Nathan & Summer will work together to identify a parent who will run the process.

Ayes   5      Nays   0      Abstained   0      – *motion carried unanimously*

Rebekah Casey & Jolene Moore each introduced themselves to the Board. Clarification of bylaws were discussed.

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

Jeff discussed the need for a board retreat as this is a relatively new body of governors. He described the value of spending a day in training, discussing the importance of serving

on the Board, the duties, the responsibilities, etc. It should be an opportunity to get to know each other and learn some nuts & bolts about governance.

Suggested Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> so that the new Board members are installed.

Intended outcomes should include establishing strong rapport so as to better serve the community as a whole.

## 9. FUTURE CHARTER COUNCIL MEETING

9.1 Date of Next Regular Meeting - October 8th, 2013, 6:00pm

10. COMMENTS FROM THE CHARTER COUNCIL - Agenda items for next meeting
- Swearing in of two new members
  - Lyn commented about the beautiful quilts in the lobby
  - Lyn also spoke of Board visibility in the community. She shared about the strong sense of community and missed opportunity of Board Members not attending the All School Meeting. She would like the Board to make the effort to attend specific events
    - to be determined
  - Louthea would like to follow up on Tighe's comment and look into 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading - if we could see how the program differs from previous years - a report at the next meeting from the Reading Intervention teacher about that topic would be appreciated.
  - Louthea asked about the election STAR vs. SBA. It requires a number of things to be addressed. Computers & common core are big items to tackle. Need to discuss this in more detail if the legislature is not mandating our participation.
11. ADJOURNMENT  
Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:27pm