

Blue Oak Charter School
450 W. East Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
CHARTER COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

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Tuesday October 20th, 2020 - 6:00 PM

Vision: To be a model for successful education of the whole child.

*Mission: To nurture and deepen each child's academic and creative capacities using methods inspired by
Waldorf education in a public school setting.*

*LCAP Goal Summary: Build the parent community, support success for all students, and prepare students for
high school*

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All times noted on the agenda are approximate and listed solely for convenience. The Board may hear items earlier or later than is noted and may move the order of agenda items.

The Blue Oak Charter Council reserves the right to take action on any item on the agenda.

AGENDA

OPEN SESSION - 6:00 PM

1. OPENING - 5 Minutes

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- Monica McDaniel called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1.2. Roll Call of Council Members and Establish Quorum

- Present: Monica McDaniel, Trisha Atehortua, Chelsea Parker, Heather Bonea, Vicki Wonacott, Laurel Hill-Ward, and Laura Swanson
- Absent: None

1.3. Invocation - School Verse Read

“This is our school, May peace dwell here, May the rooms be full of contentment. May love abide here, Love of one another, Love of our school, Love of life itself. Let us remember that as many hands build a house, So many hearts build a school.”

- Monica McDaniel read the school verse.

1.4. Agenda Modifications

- Susan Domenighini requested the agenda be modified to remove item 5.1.1. This agenda item is not ready to be presented and it as only informational; no action would need to be taken.
- The item was removed.

1.5. Audience to Address the Council

This is an opportunity for members of the community to address the committee concerning items

not on the agenda. Persons addressing the Committee will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes for their presentation. The chair may establish a maximum speaking time for any item. Persons may not yield their time to another speaker (Gov. Code § 54954.3)

- Monica McDaniel read the governing code above aloud to remind the public about the specific rules to address the council.
- No members of the audience addressed the council at this time.

2. CONSENT AGENDA - 10 Minutes

- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion. No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Heather Bonea	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Laura Swanson	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			

- The vote passes.

2.1. Approve Minutes from September 15th, 2020; September 23rd, 2020; and October 7th, 2020

2.2. Charter Impact Monthly Report

Jim Weber, Charter Impact

2.2.1. Attendance and Enrollment

2.2.2. Cash Flow

2.2.3. Balance Sheet Detail

2.2.4. Warrants/Aged Payable

2.2.5. Point of Sale Transactions/Check Register

2.2.6. Actual to Budget Summary

3. GOVERNANCE - 15 Minutes

3.1. Finance Committee

Chelsea Parker

- Chelsea Parker updated the Council members regarding the last Finance Committee meeting. Recent updates include submission of a new grant (to be covered in the Executive Report later), reevaluation of the realities for meeting the application deadline and requirements for the CTE grant, discussion of employee sick time for testing, and the review of potential funding sources for COVID moving forward. Overall, Blue Oak finances are on track.

3.2. Policy Review

Susan Domenighini

3.2.1. COVID-19 Personnel Policy

- The Personnel Policy that was presented to the Council primarily ensures that teachers are not using up all of their sick time in order to take time off for COVID testing and/or precautionary quarantines which would allow teachers the opportunity to continue to work from home if they feel okay and are not presenting any symptoms. This is a policy that is already informally in place

for Blue Oak faculty and staff, and has been reviewed by Maggie Buckley and Nick Meier from the Finance Committee. At their last meeting, the Finance Committee discussed putting a policy in place that would protect and support teachers while also ensuring it is not disqualifying staff and faculty from state compensation.

- Susan Domenighini made a note of a few statements that the Council agreed would need further clarification. In order to be voted on, this policy will need to appear on a future BOCC agenda for a second reading.

3.3. Re-Entry Plan

- The documents presented contain adjustments made by the Ad Hoc Committee composed of Susan Domenighini, Vicki Wonacoff, and Chelsea Parker. The adjustments were based on the questions, concerns, and suggestions brought up at the last BOCC meeting as well as those forwarded to Susan by BOCC members. Of the two versions presented: one version visually shows which changes, additions, or removals were made based on color and markings, and the other version is the final result after those adjustments were made.
- The floor was opened for discussion. Conversation topics included: concerns regarding the lack of specific cohort size, questions about the limited time and days students will be back on campus, how teachers will manage on-site and distance learners, and differences in hybrid execution based on grade and class size.
- Monica McDaniel reminded everyone that this focuses on campus safety not how we will be reopening. Reopening details are up for discussion on the next agenda item.
- Laurel Hill-Ward spoke to the importance of ensuring any policy that is created and/or passed during such serious circumstances needs to be flexible and fluid in order to change in the case that new information should arise.
- There were no additional audience members to address this agenda item.
- Laurel Hill-Ward made a motion to accept the plan as presented. Chelsea Parker seconded the motion.
- There was no further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Heather Bonea			X	
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Laura Swanson	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			

- Vote passes.

3.3.1. Hybrid Implementation Date

- In June, BOCC members discussed beginning the school year using the distance learning model, and decided to re-evaluate that model in mid-October for small at-risk groups. Recent survey results show that roughly 50% of Blue Oak families are ready to return to on-site instruction. In order to ensure Blue Oak is balancing the needs of all students in an equitable way, the document

- presented is a proposal to implement a Hybrid learning model. The details of this proposal were created by Susan Domenighini and a special team of faculty and staff members.
- Many BOCC members voiced concerns and suggestions such as wanting to ensure this model honors the “togetherness” aspect of the Waldorf pedagogical model, continuing “friendship clubs” to ensure on-site and distance learners can socialize with one another, possibly increasing the number of days students are on campus based on class/cohort size, and wondering if the distance learning model will suffer if teachers are asked to juggle on-site and distance learning instruction.
 - A few BOCC members felt that bringing back this many students was not honoring the plan that was originally discussed. However, the remaining BOCC members felt that this does honor the plan because, as surveys have shown, a large number of families feel it is in their child’s best interest to return to campus and it is the Councils job to address that need.
 - Chelsea Parker encouraged Susan and her team to allow teachers the flexibility to increase the number of days their students are on campus with them based on their class/cohort size. She wanted to ensure that asking students to come back was going to be more helpful than disruptive to family rhythms and student learning. She also wanted BOCC faculty and staff to take childcare into consideration when decided on what will work best for their students.
 - Tighe, a member of the audience, is in support of students returning to campus. Tighe voiced that this will give each Waldorf teacher a new chance to meet their students where they are and knows they will rise to the occasion.
 - Mitchell, a member of the audience, wanted to know if this plan would still be assessed in January; the answer is yes.
 - Gerard, a member of the audience, spoke to the hardship that distance learning imposes on parents and children, and feels that the proposed Hybrid model is unhelpful. Gerard suggested that the students who are returning should be on campus at least 4 days a week, and feels that we should be focusing more on the “offline” Waldorf standard.
 - Karissa, a member of the audience, urged the Council to allow teachers to decide individually what would work best for them. Karissa also added that, as a parent, she will decide whether or not to send her student back based on what options are being offered.
 - Jackie, a member of the audience, asked if she decides to keep her student in the distance learning model now, will her student have the option to join an on-campus cohort later. Chelsea Parker suggested that we ask parents to make a decision for the rest of the semester and allow them to reevaluate in January.
 - Brianna Lee, a Blue Oak teacher, reminded the audience that it may be unproductive to compare Blue Oak to other CUSD schools because they have more resources to utilize.
 - There was a consensus among the BOCC members to vote to modify the proposal by breaking the vote down into two parts.
 - Chelsea Parker made a motion to approve opening the campus for students to return on November 9th for those that desire to. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion. No further discussion.
 - Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Heather Bonea	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			

Laura Swanson		X		
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			

- This vote passes.
- Many people expressed unhappiness in regards to the amount of days/time being proposed in this document. It was recommended that the second part of the vote amend the document to state a minimum number of days in order to allow flexibility for teachers to increase this number if they choose.
- Heather Bonea had a question for Brianna Lee, she wanted to know what the consensus was among faculty about what type of schedule is most feasible for them. Brianna explained that a two day minimum is feasible for all teachers; adding more days will vary based on class/cohort size. An AM/PM model is not possible for BOCS teachers if they are still going to continue distance learning as well, which is why half days in the morning was proposed. The thought process behind this proposal was to ensure that whatever model we enact, we enact it in a sustainable way for our teachers and our school.
- Susan Domenighini reminded Council members that the details of how each class will carry out this policy is up to faculty, staff, and administration. For now, BOCC members simply need to pass a policy that is broad enough to allow for flexibility. Susan also requested the approval for a maximum size of cohorts so it is clearly stated.
- Chelsea Parker made a motion to accept the opening date for the on-site Hybrid option document with the modification to the A/B schedule proposal that we instead state that students be offered “at minimum” two days on campus a week. Trisha Atehortua seconded the motion.
- However, Chelsea Parker urged BOCS faculty and staff to find a way to offer more than two days a week to their on-site students once official planning begins.
- There was no further discussion or comments from the public.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Heather Bonea	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Laura Swanson			X	
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			

- This vote passes.

3.4. Board Training

3.4.1. Brown Act & Governance Training

- Susan Domenighini recommended that all Council members complete an online Brown Act and Governance Academy training course(s) through Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC). At the next BOCC meeting, Council members will come back to this agenda item to discuss the course content. This option is also open to parents and/or teachers who are interested. Executive

Assistant, Alexandra Archer, will register all Council members as well as any other interested parties, and send out course registration information and instructions.

4. FACULTY

4.1. Grade Level Report

- Riley Murray gave a powerpoint presentation with updates from BOCS teachers including notes, photos, and videos.

5. ADMINISTRATION - 30 Minutes

5.1. Executive Director's Report

Susan Domenighini

- Susan Domenighini reported the submission of an anti-racism and equity grant to the California Department of Education (CDE). She felt the grant was inline with the work the Blue Oak Social Justice and Equity Task Force has begun.
- Other updates include staff members participating in book clubs for “How to Be an Anti-Racist” and “White Supremacy and Me”; last weeks Acorn included information on the “My Culture is Not a Costume” campaign to encourage thoughtfulness as the holidays grow near; donations can be made to BOCS via our website now; the Finance Committee is looking to participate in the Giving Day put on by the North Valley Community Foundation in early December; and we currently are preparing the distribution of 40 Dell laptops to be handed out to our 7th and 8th Grade students.
- Susan reminded everyone present that BOCC meeting agendas, minutes, and packet materials can be found on the BOCS website and recorded versions of the meetings will be posted to the Blue Oak YouTube channel soon.

~~5.1.1. CUSD Report~~

6. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, November 17th, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

- Monica adjourned the meeting at 8:32PM

Minutes Taken By: Alexandra
Archer

Approved by: Trisha Atehortua
Trisha Atehortua (Dec 20, 2020 18:49 PST)

Date: Dec 20, 2020