

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

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Tuesday November 17th, 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 6:06PM.

1.2. Roll Call of Council Members and Establish Quorum

- Present: Vicki Wonacott, Chelsea Parker, Laurel Hill-Ward, Trisha Atehortua, Laura Swanson, Heather Bonea, Monica McDaniel
- 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."

- Heather Bonea read the school verse.

1.4. Agenda Modifications

- No agenda modifications were made.

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)

- Jackie Hammer, who has a 6th grade student at Blue Oak, has been a parent at Blue Oak for 10 years, and a member of the Parent Council for 6 years voiced a few concerns. She was worried about what Butte County being in the Purple Tier meant for the school. She also wanted to know how the waiting list was being addressed for larger classes. If she moves her student from in-person to distance learning does her student lose enrollment in that class, with that teacher, altogether or just their physical seat in the classroom?

2. CONSENT AGENDA - 10 Minutes

- Heather Bonea asked if we have actual attendance numbers for this school year as she did not see them in the Monthly Financial Report. In order to discuss this matter further, the item needed to be pulled from the consent agenda.
- Chelsea Parker made a motion to approve the consent agenda minus item number 2.2.1. Laurel Hill-Ward 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.

2.1. Approve Minutes from October 20th, 2020

2.2. Charter Impact Monthly Report

Jim Weber, Charter Impact

2.2.1. Attendance and Enrollment

- Jim Weber addressed Heather Bonea's question about this item. One reason the Monthly Impact Report does not show actual attendance numbers is because it does not directly affect finances this year; typically, he said he would make a point to gather those numbers ahead of time but since it doesn't define funding this year it was not a key point in the report.
- Susan Domenighini informed BOCC members that actual attendance numbers are going to be addressed in her Executive Directors Report later in the meeting. Enrollment has been fairly consistent all year and is stable, however, attendance has been harder to track this year. The number of students on a waiting list will also be covered in the Executive Directors Report later in the meeting as well.
- Chelsea Parker made a motion to approve this agenda item. Heather Bonea seconded the motion.
- There was no further discussion.
- Vote.

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

➤ Vote passes.

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 gave an update about the last Finance Committee meeting and explained that overall finances are looking good except for the possibility of a short term borrowing need that may be expected over the summer. The BOFC reviewed medical insurance premium information, started discussing marketing prospects and other options to boost enrollment, and learned that Susan Domenighini was able to enroll Blue Oak in a Employee Assistance Program that helps provide mental health support and other counseling services for all employees regardless if they've accepted an insurance package with Blue Oak.
- Monica McDaniel shared that BCOE offers crisis support for all schools as well.

3.2. Medical Insurance Premium Options

Leanne Chrisman, Healthy Solutions

- Leanne Chrisman from Healthy Solutions Insurance Services reviewed Blue Oaks upcoming insurance premium options for the 2021 calendar year.
- Last year Blue Oak switched to Anthem Blue Cross to align the yearly deductible with the calendar year to avoid confusion; overall, it was the right move. This year there was very minimal increase in cost; Leanne compared all insurance options and Anthem still remains the best choice for this area. However, Anthem has made changes to benefits starting January 1st, 2020.
- Leanne reviewed the current plan options that Blue Oak provided for the 2020 calendar year and compared them to the four options that are currently being offered for the 2021 calendar year. She also spoke to the dispute Anthem currently has with Enloe and reassured BOCC members that the current dispute does not apply to the insurance plan provided to Blue Oak employees. Leanne will be sending out information to employees soon and her team is always available to assist with any personal questions or concerns.
- Chelsea Parker explained that when insurance options are brought to the Finance Committee, the BOFC reviews the details and decides which options to recommend to the Charter Council. The BOFC felt that, because the price difference was minimal to the school, the BOFC recommends offering all four options so each employee can meet with Leanne and pick which option suits them best.

- Last year, Blue Oak suffered a 12% insurance cost increase whereas this year there is only a 3% overall increase. Additionally, this year's transition will be much smoother for Blue Oak employees compared to last year as there will be much fewer changes occurring. Chelsea recommended that once the BOCC votes, Leanne and her team at Healthy Solutions equip Blue Oak employees with information about the insurance options as soon as possible.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve the insurance options that have been presented. Vicki Wonacott 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. Policy Review

Susan Domenighini

3.3.1. COVID-19 Personnel Policy (2nd Reading)

- After consulting with Blue Oak employees since the first reading, Susan Domenighini feels confident in proposing that the BOCC does not make any changes to the policy that is currently being proposed.
- Chelsea Parker is pleased that this policy offers employees the ability to stay safe, get tested, and not use up their sick time.
- Heather Bonea confirmed that employees only have to use their sick time if they have a positive diagnosis and/or when they are recovering for symptoms; and, if in that case they do use up all of their sick time due to COVID, they can apply for extended sick time through the state.
- Heather Bonea made a motion to accept the Blue Oak COVID-19 Personnel Policy. Laurel Hill-Ward was 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			

- Vote passes.

3.4. Board Training Discussion

3.4.1. Brown Act & Governance Training

- Susan Domenighini wanted to give the BOCC members time to share comments and questions about the Brown Act and Governance Training during a meeting. Monica and Heather thanked Susan for offering that resource to the Charter Council and others.

3.5. Hybrid Reopening Model

- Governor Newsom moved Butte County into the Purple Tier recently; however, since Blue Oak is already open, the school now has the option to either remain open or make the choice to move back to distance learning. Susan clarified a point to the audience that, even if Blue Oak chooses to stay open through the Purple Tier, the school may be closed by the health department if 5% or more of our on-campus population test positive for COVID-19.
- This information was just released yesterday so Susan Domenighini was not feeling prepared to make a recommendation of how Blue Oak should move forward. She will be meeting with more charter leaders in the days to come and will have more information after that.
- Many members voiced the desire to err on the side of caution as the BOCC moves forward with these discussions; to act preemptively instead of reactively. Some did not want to shut down the school since the option for families to transition back to distance learning is still available. Chelsea Parker suggested that, at this time, maybe Blue Oak should just not offer to grow class sizes until Butte County moves to a different tier.
- Chelsea Parker feels like BOCC members weighed the realities of what was going to happen in the future when they voted on reopening and approved the safety plan. Monica McDaniel did not feel that we should make a decision about school closure at this time.
- Brianna Lee, a Blue Oak 8th Grade Teacher, shared her perspective as a faculty member and feels that it might be best to hear what Susan learns from other school and charter leaders before making a decision. Brianna stressed that now is not the time to be an outlier and urges the BOCC to call a special meeting at a later time if plans need to be discussed further.

3.5.1. Special Classes (16+)

- After last month's meeting, the BOCC voted to allow 16 students per cohort because that was the safest number of students that could fit in most classroom spaces. From the start of allowing students back on site, there was only one class that had more than 16 students (Ms. Madera's class) which was moved into the Great Room to allow more square footage for the students' safety. Susan is asking the Council to approve the one class who has more than 16 students.
- In the first two weeks of being back on campus, no changes to classroom sizes were allowed to be made. However, now there are a few classes who have one or two students on a waiting list who would like to move from distance learning to on-site learning.
- To answer the audience member's question from earlier in the meeting, the students on the waiting list are not new incoming students, they are simply Blue Oak students who have changed their minds and want to switch. If a student who is on-site wants to move back to distance learning, they are not giving up their place in the class with that teacher, they are simply giving up their physical seat on campus for those students who want to

come back to on-site learning. Susan reminded the audience that if we wanted to accommodate room for all of our students we would need to reduce the number of days each student is on campus.

- There was a general consensus that class sizes should not increase while Butte County is in the Purple Tier, meaning that the waiting lists should be “frozen” until Butte County moves tiers. Additionally, moving forward, the Council members feel that increasing a class size above 16 students should be approved by the BOCC on a case by case basis.
- Chelsea Parker made a motion to increase the one class (Ms. Madera’s class) that is already above 16 students since Blue Oak had a safe space available for it. Laurel Hill-Ward seconded the motion.
- Jackie, the audience member who spoke earlier, wanted to point out that Ms. Madera originally wanted an outdoor classroom space. She urged that if the BOCC members are going to approve the larger class size, that the school address Ms. Maderas request for outdoor space. Heather Bonea suggested that the BOCC add outdoor learning spaces to the next agenda for discussion.
- 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.

3.6. BCOE Memorandum of Understanding

- Monica McDaniel was having technical difficulties and was no longer able to lead the meeting or continue to take part in further discussion or voting procedures. Heather Bonea stepped in to lead the remainder of the meeting.
- Over the last 5 years, BCOE has offered to provide onsite counseling for Camp Fire survivors, however, the program did not work out as hoped. This year, BCOE has offered to give Blue Oak funding to expand our own services instead. The scope of this funding can be used for Camp Fire victims as well as victims of other trauma such as those impacted by other fires or even by COVID-19. This agreement was brought to the BOFC already; now, Susan is asking for approval of these funds from the BOCC.
- Chelsea Parker made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding that was presented. Laura Swanson 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			

➤ Vote passes.

3.7. Accept Offers of Employment

3.7.1. Samantha Huefner, Instructional Aide

3.7.2. Amber Saetern, Instructional Aide

3.8. Accept Resignations

3.8.1. Maria Cabrera, Instructional Aide

- Chelsea Parker made a motion to accept the two offers of employment and the resignation. 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			

➤ Vote passes.

4. FACULTY

4.1. Grade Level Report

Riley Murray and Brianna Lee

- Two months ago, a member of the audience addressed the council and brought up their concerns about the use of fairy tales in Blue Oak curriculum, more specifically Grimm fairy tales which include many stereotypes. The Blue Oak Pedagogical Team as well as Faculty Co-Chairs have been working on a presentation to describe the use of fairy tales in Waldorf education.
- The Fairy Tale Presentation was presented by Brianna Lee and Riley Murray via PowerPoint presentation as well as a puppet show video from one of the Kindergarten classes at Blue Oak. Overall, Blue Oak faculty and staff wanted the audience to know that the Pedagogical Team is constantly re-evaluating to ensure that the Blue Oak curriculum is representative.

- Monica McDaniel recommended that we schedule a Parent Education Night to allow the Pedagogical Team and other faculty members the space to educate and discuss topics like this in more detail with our Blue Oak parents.

5. ADMINISTRATION - 30 Minutes

5.1. Executive Director's Report

Susan Domenighini

- Children Back On Site
 - Parents and students are very happy to be back on campus. We are collecting successes, concerns, and questions and will work to address them before the Blue Oak gets back from Thanksgiving break.
- Grants
 - Blue Oak did not receive the CDE anti-racism and equity grant that we applied for concerning professional development. There were over 300 applications and fewer than 10 recipients.
- Annual Fundraising Campaign
 - Blue Oak cannot participate in the North Valley Community Foundation Week of Giving as only nonprofit organizations can participate. The experience for applying and marketing our school was helpful for Susan and Maggie Buckley and will be applied when moving forward with other ideas.
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
 - Susan chose to enroll Blue Oak in the Magellan EAP through our insurance broker, Healthy Solutions. At a very low cost to Blue Oak, now all employees including hourly and non-insured staff members, have access to counseling services and assistance.
- Marketing and Enrollment
 - Susan has met with six marketing firms to determine what the best course of action for marketing for Blue Oak might be. Three of the six were very focused on social media and web-based outreach and the other three had a more general approach for how to market locally. A few local marketing entities were not interested in taking us on as they were at a loss for how to market for schools. Overall, no matter which firm we go with, the rough estimate for the first full year would cost around \$15,000.
 - Susan reviewed our current enrollment of students per class to determine a realistic goal for what amount of students per class we would like to reach. This desired goal was presented to the BOCC through a chart in the packet materials.
- Additional Considerations
 - Full-Day Kindergarten Offering - The idea of a Full-Day Kindergarten Program has been discussed both with our Kindergarten teachers as well as BOFC members. The idea that many parents chose not to enroll their students at Blue Oak because we did not have a full-day offering has been voiced many times over the years. Susan would like approval to move forward with preparing a proposal, planning, and implementing this idea.
 - Preschool - Along the same line, many families have voiced interest in a Waldorf Preschool Program as well. Susan feels that this would be a great way to introduce families to the Waldorf style and would like to pursue this idea as well but it would not realistically be implemented until the 2022 school year.
- Facility
 - Susan has met with a broker to begin planning for a new Blue Oak school facility for the 2022/23 school year. The next step would be for Heather Bonea and Trisha Atehortua to join Susan in a meeting to discuss options.

➤ Comments

- Trisha Atehortua felt that a Full Day Kindergarten program would be more convenient, however, she knows that the transition to Kindergarten is hard for families sometimes. Susan suggested that Blue Oak might be able to offer both a half day and full day Kindergarten option to accommodate all parental preferences. Trisha also likes the idea of having the marketing plan reflected in our budget so that we are able to move forward with those plans.
- Laurel Hill-Ward would be interested in having an ad hoc committee formed to give input for marketing purposes; obviously, not to take the place of a professional's opinions but to talk about specific outreach ideas related to Blue Oak.
- Heather Bonea liked the idea Susan suggested about having both Kindergarten program options available and would also love to see a preschool program implemented as well.

5.1.1. CUSD Annual Oversight Checklists

6. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, December 15th, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

- Heather adjourned the meeting at 8:38PM.

Minutes Taken By: Alexandra
Archer

Approved by: Trisha Atehortua
Trisha Atehortua (Dec 20, 2020 19:01 PST) Date: Dec 20, 2020