

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

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Meeting ID: 997 1548 8751

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Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 - 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.

Notice: Any person with a disability may request the agenda be made available in an appropriate alternative format. A request for a disability-related modification or accommodation may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting at, 450 W. East Ave., Chico, CA or by calling (530) 879-7483 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (at least 48 hours before the meeting). All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations.

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.

Update: In Compliance with the Governor of California's "Safer-at-Home Order" due to COVID-19, the Blue Oak Charter Council will be conducting meetings virtually until further notice. This means there will be no specific physical meeting place; the meeting will be held remotely. Public participation continues to be welcomed and encouraged to those who join via Zoom and raise their hand. The chat bar will not be available to the public during the Zoom meetings to support the sanctity of the meeting.

Blue Oak Charter Council (BOCC) may tape, film, stream, or broadcast any open BOCC Meeting. The BOCC Chair may announce that a recording or broadcasting is being made at the direction of BOCC members and that the recording or broadcast may capture images and sounds of those attending the meeting. Any BOCC recording may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the meeting.

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

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

➤ Chelsea Parker called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

1.2. Roll Call of Council Members and Establish Quorum

➤ Present: Trisha Atehortua, Amber Brown, Chelsea Parker, Vicki Wonacott, and Laurel Hill-Ward

➤ 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, and Love of life itself. Let us remember that as many hands build a house, So many hearts build a school."

- Susan Domenighini read the invocation.

1.4. Agenda Modifications

- No modifications were made to the agenda.

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)

- 2nd Grade parent, gave a shout out to Kate McDonald for doing such an amazing job. She is supporting diversity and inclusion in her classroom through stories and other formats and specifically, is celebrating hispanic heritage month at the moment. It is very nice to see such diversity in the classroom.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1. Approve Minutes from August 11th, 2021.

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. Actual to Budget Summary

2.3. Point of Sale Transactions/Check Register

2.4. Accept Offers of Employment

2.4.1. Nadine Bourell-Montoya, Independent Study Teacher

2.4.2. Damion Grissom, Custodian

2.4.3. Julian Barkley-Brinson, Paraprofessional

2.5. Accept Contract

2.5.1. Speech and Occupational Therapist, Full Circle

2.6. Accept Donations

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

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			

- Vote passes.

3. GOVERNANCE

3.1. Finance Committee Report

Amber Brown

- Amber Brown gave an update from the latest Finance Committee meeting. Along with reviewing the financial report, we talked about our current enrollment numbers. Blue Oak has lost about 19 students for a number of different reasons. The BOFC also discussed temporarily raising the Substitute Teacher wage to meet the CUSD pay rate to meet demands for a shortage of substitute teachers. The estimated increase to our budget by this change would be about \$30,000 but of any year to fund this change, now is the time. Finally, the BOFC reviewed the grant application for external security cameras that will be covered later in the meeting.
- A Blue Oak parent was wondering where the cameras would be placed, if there would be privacy for our students and how the videos would be stored. At the moment, the board did not have any specifics to offer as that will be discussed at a later point in time. The primary purpose of the cameras would be for the safety of our campus and would remain confidential. Once Admin has made decisions of how they will use the camera, they can report back to the board at a later date.

3.2. Parent Council Report **Trisha Atehortua**

- Trisha Atehortua reported about the most recent Parent Council meeting. The majority of the meeting was spent electing parent representatives and getting things established for this year. The Parent Council is still looking to establish a chair, but there were many that showed interest. Additionally, there was some discussion about Harvest Festival, Open House, and funding the courtyard project that Claire Fong is taking on for the school. The Parent Council is still looking for help to assist Claire in this project.

3.3. Equity & Inclusion Task Force Report **Susan Domenighini**

- Susan Domenighini reported that the Equity Task Force had their first meeting of the school year. She mentioned that it was great to be back together in person to discuss these issues as a group. The Task Force has made the decision to report on their work in the Acorn every month to keep everyone informed. As for recent updates, Lyndsay Klipfel is still working with our faculty for professional development in equity and there has been some adjustments to the dress code to address hate speech and derogatory comments. Claire Fong has taken the lead of the Task Force and overall the team seems to be very pleased to move forward with plans.

3.4. BOCC Community Member Applicant

3.4.1. Leanna Glander

- The BOCC has received an application to fill a Community Member seat on the council. Chelsea Parker introduced the applicant, Leanna Glander, who is a friend of hers and has an extensive background in the education field. Leanna works as a high school counselor, has a Masters degree and has many family members who work in education as well. Additionally, Leanna has recently completed Brown Act training as well.
- Chelsea Parker nominated Leanna Glander to fill the vacant Community Member seat for the Charter Council. Laurel Hill-Ward seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			

- Vote passes.
- Leanna Glander has now joined the Charter Council as a voting member.

3.5. Policy Review

3.5.1. COVID-19 Policy (2nd Reading)

- This the second reading for the COVID-19 policy presented. Nothing has changed in this document since the last reading.
- A Blue Oak parent was wondering if parents were allowed to receive updates about exposures or cases at the school. She is aware the data has to be reported to public health and was wondering if they could be made public to the greater Blue Oak community as well. This topic was put on pause as it is addressed in another agenda item later in the meeting.
- Another Blue Oak parent, whose students' class has had to quarantine twice since the school year began, is wondering why the board members were not following the same masking practices that they are requiring of the students. A different Blue Oak parent, who also has had their child home for a second time this year, shared that they had the same feelings.
- Laurel Hill-Ward approved the COVID-19 policy that was presented. Amber Brown seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Leanna Glander	X			

- Vote passes.

3.5.2. Independent Study Policy (2nd Reading)

- This is the second reading of the Independent Study (IS) policy that was presented. The only change made to the document since the last reading was that the state recently reduced the number of days required for IS from two days down to one day. Now IS can be requested for a student even if they are only missing one day of school. For background, charter schools do not operate on ADA from

the previous school year like public schools do so any change in attendance impacts the schools budget immediately.

- A Blue Oak parent was wondering if it was possible to get the packet documents in advance, she only sees it posted on ParentSquare a few hours before the meetings. The board informed them that most packet documents are posted on the website the Friday before the meeting and the info that goes out in ParentSquare serves as a general reminder.
- Leanna Glander was wondering if this change is just temporary for this school year; the board was not sure but knows it will be in effect until the end of the school year at least. Amber Brown suggested that the school send this information out to parents to inform them of the changes.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve the Independent Study Policy. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Leanna Glander	X			

- Vote passes.

3.5.3. Safety Plan Update - Air Quality

- The document presented is an addendum to be added to the Blue Oak safety plan to address air quality. The school felt it was important for our wider community to know how we are making decisions about when it is and isn't safe to be outside. Blue Oak will be using the same site that CUSD and other schools use to determine unsafe air quality. So far we have only had to spend a few days indoors using this measurement.
- A Blue Oak parent wanted to thank the board for taking up this topic. They wanted the board to know that AirNow.gov takes an average of the air quality over the span of 60 minutes while other resources such as PurpleAir takes an average every 10 minutes which is more of a real-time average.
- Susan Domenighini informed the audience members that the school monitors the air quality throughout the day and usually makes a decision if it is safe to play outside or not about 20 minutes before morning and lunch recess. The school looked at a number of sites but AirNow.gov seemed the most consistent and regularly used.
- Another Blue Oak parent was wondering if the school had any kind of extra filtration at the school. Susan informed the audience that the school increased the filtration system with the decision to return to campus last year. All air filters in

our school filter outside so the air is not recycled and there are also air purifiers in every classroom and all major traffic areas of the school to help with both COVID and fire season.

- Vicki Wonacott asked if there was an area a student could go if they didn't want to breathe the air outside. The school does have other areas, however, we have never had a student ask that question before. Additionally, we do have plans in place for students with asthma and other similar conditions.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve the Air Quality Policy. Laurel Hill-Ward seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Leanna Glander	X			

- Vote passes.

3.6. Increase Substitute Teacher Wage

- Currently, Blue Oak only has two substitutes and have heard from a few people that Blue Oak is paying Substitute Teachers a lower wage than the schools in our area which makes it hard to choose to substitute for Blue Oak when it is such a big financial loss. Susan Domenighini asked the board to temporarily increase the daily wage to make CUSD's wage which can be decreased again if/when CUSD decreases their wage as well. Currently, we are asking the board to make this increase through the end of the school year.
- A Blue Oak parent spoke up about their support for this increase. They were curious to know if the school has ever considered paying more for anyone with a Waldorf background. The school has not seen any substitutes with Waldorf background apply in recent years but historically Blue Oak has paid a higher wage than CUSD for our general sub pool because of the desire to have a higher caliber of substitutes for our school.
- Laurel Hill-Ward mentions that she is in support of this increase because, from her past experience, she knows finding and keeping reliable substitutes is very much tied to the rate of pay.
- Laurel Hill-Ward made a motion to approve the suggested increase in the substitute teacher wage. Leanna Glander seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Leanna Glander	X			

➤ Vote passes.

3.7. COVID-19 Response

3.7.1. Mandated COVID-19 Reporting by Schools

- Blue Oak is currently working with USA Medical to get onsite testing for staff, students, and parents who wish to volunteer and aren't vaccinated. It is a fairly easy process to get signed up for these tests; participants do have to agree to allow the school to have access to the results of the test though. We are tracking new cases daily; the school has had only 3 occurrences of exposures at this point. Our parents have been very conscientious about isolating in the case of an exposure or of symptoms; we are very thankful for the communication from parents.
- When the school does have an exposure, we report it to Butte County health which is considered our tracking. To reference a question asked earlier about informing the school, there is tight regulation for who and how we inform people about an exposure in the school. In most cases, we are not even allowed to tell the teacher what is going on so this is not something we are allowed to share with our greater Blue Oak community either.
- The guidelines given to use by the school differ for when students are or are not on campus and have to do with who and who isn't vaccinated. Blue Oak staff are very very conscientious when students are on campus. When students aren't present on campus, all staff are still following the CDPH requirements for masking, etc. Susan shared this document in the packet so that everyone was aware of the process we are following.
- A Blue Oak parent if everyone is required to wear masks indoors in a K-12 setting, why aren't the board members wearing masks during the meeting. The board clarified that masks are optional in an indoor setting for vaccinated adults when students are not present. Susan stated that she would follow up with this parent to share additional information.
- Another Blue Oak parent asked if there was a school policy about reporting on-campus cases with the wider school community. The board reiterated that there are very specific guidelines that the school must follow; that information can only be reported to certain people. General data is shared every board meeting.
- Currently, Blue Oak has only had 3 exposures and 0 transmissions; at this point, we cannot share more info other than that. The board will give an update every meeting.

3.8. Approve Grant Application

3.8.1. Foer Foundation

- A few months ago, some juveniles vandalized Blue Oak property and the police said it would be helpful for us to have security cameras. Buck Ernest, the Blue Oak Facilities Manager and Safety Coordinator, reached out to the Foor Foundation for a grant for a security program to help protect our property. The application and information are presented in the board packet.
- The board will not be making any decisions about the specifics of camera use policies at this time; they are intended to increase school safety on our campus. School administration will write a policy regarding these camera uses once they have been received and will report back about this policy to the board at a future meeting.
- A Blue Oak parent mentioned that this level of technology comes with a great level of responsibility; there are many types of cybersecurity issues with this kind of camera. They were wondering if the school has someone with the tools to keep these cameras safe. Blue Oak does work with the BCOE IT department who help us with technology needs. BCOE also manages other schools with security cameras so I am sure they would be able to help us too.
- Trisha Atehortua made the motion to approve the grant. Laurel Hill-Ward seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Amber Brown	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Leanna Glander	X			

- Vote passes.

4. FACULTY

4.1. Grade Level Report

Riley Murray & Nick Meier

- Nick Meier, the Blue Oak Games teacher, shared that it was great to be back on campus; it is scary and exciting; navigating safety, equity and inclusion, and personal liberties all at once but it is still a joy to be back with the students. Nick shared a powerpoint that includes updates from all teachers which will be made available on the Blue Oak website.
- Kudos to middle school teachers for the new schedules to mix classes, etc. Many parents and staff have noticed positive behavior changes as a result of this new addition to middle school schedules.

5. ADMINISTRATION

5.1. Executive Director's Report

Susan Domenighini

- Susan shared the Executive Directors report which is included in the board packet. This report includes some staff members favorite moments and other important information
- Staffing -
 - Blue Oak is pleased to announce that we have hired our last two employees for the year which means we are now fully staffed for the first time in 3 years.
- Equity Task Force -
 - The task force has had its first meeting of the school year. We will be meeting monthly moving forward and will include reports in the Acorn every month to keep our larger community in the loop.

5.1.1. Enrollment Comparison

- The charter presented shows the reasoning behind the slight drop in enrollment that we have had at the start of this school year. Butte County has lost about 5.7% of enrollments and the state overall about 2.6%. Oregon has had exponential growth in enrollment; the trend seems to be people moving to more rural areas and out of CA so it is not just a Blue Oak issue at the moment. Jim and Susan will need to do some planning for budget revisions with these changes. Additionally, there is still room to add Kindergarteners to our class who turn 5 in the spring.
- There will be changes to TK by the state soon. Blue Oak will need to have a conversation soon about how that will impact our school and fit into our pedagogy.

5.1.2. Brown Act Training

5.1.2.1. AB 361 Brown Act Update

- The bill above has gone through legislature but has not been signed yet by the Governor. If it is signed, this act would allow the board to continue to board meetings via Zoom as long as we are in a state of emergency. The board will have to make a monthly statement that we are still in a state of emergency in order to continue meeting virtually. The expectation is that this bill will be signed by the end of the month which will be before the next meeting.
- Additionally, after the state of emergency ends, we are allowed to always have community members join virtually from now on.

5.1.3. MC2 Advertising Update

- Blue Oak administration and staff have met again with MC2 and are continuing advertising contracts since Oct and Nov are big marketing months. We are still working with them to increase enrollments. Marketing efforts at this point will most likely affect us more for next year rather than this year but we will welcome new enrollments throughout the year, too.
- We are working on a possibility of video advertising as well as working on Facebook ads along with Google ads. Also, we are focusing on building next year Kindergarten enrollment and have noticed an increase in Instagram and Facebook presence.

5.1.4. Transportation

- Blue Oak classes have begun going on field trips again which is very exciting. Some of our classes have been to the Chico Flax Fields recently and we have even gotten an invitation to Malakoff Diggins again. Transportation has always been a challenge for Blue Oak in order to have these field trips; in general it is becoming more difficult to get parents to drive on field trips. Susan has reached out to Forest

Ranch to see if we can borrow a school bus in the future, they are reaching out to their insurance company to see if there is a possibility to share their service. Also, Susan has looked at the possibility of buying 14 passenger vans for parents to be able to drive which would be covered by school insurance with an insured driver.

- Laurel was wondering if students are able to use the public bus system for a field trip, etc. This has happened in the past, not sure what that looks like now but Blue Oak has utilized that option before. Teachers are also currently looking into field trips on site.

6. CLOSED SESSION

6.1. Real Estate Update

Conference with Real Property Negotiations (§ 54956.8)

- No action was taken but direction was given to the negotiator.

7. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, October 19th at 6:00PM

8. ADJOURNMENT

- Chelsea Parker adjourned the meeting at 9:35PM.

Minutes Taken By: Alexandra Archer

Approved by: _____



Date: _____

