

**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, March 22nd, 2022 - 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.*

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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.

**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.

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**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 6:08PM.

**1.2. Roll Call of Council Members and Establish Quorum**

- Present: Chelsea Parker, Amber Brown, Trisha Atehortua, Vicki Wonacott and Kristen Woods
- Absent: Laurel Hill-Ward and Leanna Glander

**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."*

- Trisha Atehortua read the school verse.

**1.4. Agenda Modifications**

- Susan Domenighini made a suggestion that we move the class combination agenda item up as parents might be interested to hear about it. Chelsea voiced concerns that parents who are coming in late to hear the item later might miss it. The item was not moved.

**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)*

- No audience members were present to address the council.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

**2.1. Approve Minutes from February 15th, 2022 and March 7th, 2022.**

**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. Teleconferencing During State of Emergency  
State of Emergency (§ 8625)**

**2.5. Accept Employee Resignations**

**2.5.1. Jill Vought, Instructional Aide**

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

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

- Vote passes.

**3. FACULTY**

**3.1. Grade Level Report**

**Nick Meier**

- Nick Meier shared the faculty report via powerpoint presentation. This powerpoint will be available on the Blue Oak website.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE**

##### **4.1. Finance Committee Report**

**Amber Brown**

- Amber Brown reported that the BOFC members talked about sustainable schools, which Susan will cover this topic a little later in the meeting as well as reviewed the February finances. The most concerning update was regarding our ADA and how we're going to budget for next year. The BOFC is keeping an eye on what areas we have extra expenses and feels that focusing on class sizes will be really important for the budget for next year. The BOFC has not heard any news on how funding will work moving forward. And, although it is concerning that we are running over budget, that is not quite out of the norm for all schools at this time. Overall, there are concerns for our cash flow coming into the end of the year but the main focus is how our budget is going to look over the next couple of years.
- Jim and Susan are working on problem solving these issues, if they reach a point of concern coming up anytime soon, they will bring it to the board.

##### **4.2. Parent Council Report**

**Trisha Atehortua**

- Trisha Atehortua reported that the PC meetings have been full of information lately. Last time, they talked about establishing fundraising goals; looking at how much money the PC makes each year so they can know how much money it is okay to spend each year without depleting our budget. Some parents will take on compiling the data for PC spending trends to start that research. Additionally, the PC is talking about putting a cap on ways to support classrooms so as not to overspend in that area. At the moment, the PC is providing funds for some basketball hoops for Mr. Meier in Games and May Fair planning is in full swing. There are probably at least 10-15 people in attendance per meeting and they are still virtual at this time.

##### **4.3. COVID-19 Response Update**

**Susan Domenighini**

- Susan Domenighini reported that masks are off at school. Coming back to school on Monday, there were lots of smiles, introductions and re-introductions. A number of teachers commented that they did not realize what they were missing until they were able to see their students' faces again. The lower grades hallway was full of parents back on campus picking up their students, some maybe even for the first time, which was exciting. Parents were excited to see and talk with each other as well. The other very good news regarding COVID is that the school has had no new exposures since February 23rd.
- The BOCC members asked Susan to leave this item on the agenda until the end of the school year since the situation is ever changing.

##### **4.4. Policy Review**

###### **4.4.1. Holidays (2nd Reading)**

- The policy presented has the addition of one more paid holiday: Indigenous Peoples' Day. This holiday was observed on the calendar last year but, for classified full time employees, it was not previously a paid holiday. So, Susan requested the addition of Indigenous Peoples' Day to the list of paid holidays. This addition will not accrue an additional cost to Blue Oaks budget. This is the second reading and will require a vote.

- Vicki Wonacott made a motion to accept the new holiday policy as written. Kristen Woods seconds the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

- Vote passes.

#### 4.5. 2nd Interim Report

- This report is the formal requirement of our financial report to share with our charter authorizer and also to the County Office of Education. BOFC and BOCC review this information monthly in our financial reports. It was due on the 15th of this month so Susan submitted the report as it had been recommended by the BOFC so we could meet the required deadline. CUSD might raise questions about our spending at the moment but it is unlikely since most of our overspending is due to staffing, substitutes, and materials in our transition from distance learning. These are things that we could not truly change this year anyways.
- Trisha Athehortua made a motion. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

- Vote passes.

#### 4.6. Annual Auditor Selection

- Blue Oak has been with CLA for about 5 years but they rotate their auditor every 2 years which keeps our audit in compliance. Administration and office staff have been happy with their work; they have a great automated system that works well for our staff. Susan recommends that we continue with CLA as our auditor for next year.
- Kristen Woods made a motion to approve continuing with CLA. Amber Brown seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

- Vote passes.

#### 4.7. AT&T Master Agreement

- Susan is requesting approval for AT&T to provide our internet services for the school. Blue Oak has been with Comcast for a number of years but AT&T bid significantly under our quote for Comcast. BCOE said there is no measurable difference for the services provided between AT&T and Comcast other than the huge difference in cost. Blue Oak has already told Comcast they are leaving and in addition, because of e-rate, Comcast gave us a substantial credit back because they overcharged us earlier in the year.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve switching to the AT & T master agreement. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

Trisha Atehortua	X			
Kristen Woods	X			

➤ Vote passes.

**4.8. Resolution of 2020-21 Audit Findings/Audit Certification**

- If you looked at our audit you would see that there were no audit findings, therefore the resolution of them is fairly simple. Susan asks that the board accepts the audit certification.
- Thank you to everyone who was involved in working through this audit.
- Amber Brown made a motion to accept the 2021 audit findings and certification. Trisha Atehortua seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

➤ Vote passes.

**4.9. Overnight Field Trip Approval**

**4.9.1. Brianna Lee's Class - Shady Creek**

**4.9.2. Kari Madera's Class - Shakespeare Festival**

**4.9.3. Ally Welch's Class - Shakespeare Festival**

- Blue Oak offers three different types of field trips. The first is a walking field trip which parents usually sign for during registration; a recent example of this was when 3rd grade went to the Flax Seed Farm. The second type is a day field trip which requires driving, such as going to the pumpkin patch, which teachers need Administrative approval to plan. The last type is an overnight field trip which needs to be approved by the board. Before an overnight field trip is brought to the board, Susan talks with the teacher to see how the trip is going to be financed to make sure the school is not taking on any extra financial responsibilities that are not in the budget. All field trips presented today have been verified.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve all of the overnight field trips. Vicki Wonacott seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

Chelsea Parker	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward				X
Amber Brown			X	
Leanna Glander				X
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Kristen Woods	X			

➤ Vote passes.

## 5. ADMINISTRATION

### 5.1. Executive Director's Report

Susan Domenighini

#### ➤ Williams Act

- In previous years, the Williams Act did not apply to charter schools; now those rules have changed. Blue Oak already implements most expectations found in the Williams Act but, until now, we haven't been required to be reviewed for meeting those expectations. We are on the Williams Act monitoring list because of our test scores but so are two other junior highs in Chico. Chairun Combs made a report about our schools test scores at the last board meeting.

#### ➤ Alliance for Public Waldorf

- The Pedagogical Team is beginning to prepare work for the core principles of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Schools so we can become a full-fledged member and use "public waldorf" in our title instead of "waldorf inspired." It is a pretty thorough accreditation process so we are beginning conversations on what work we need to do for that assessment. Most of this work has already been outlined in our LCAP planning. The Pedagogical Team is also working with grade level teams to look at novel sets to see what sets are appropriate to continue to use and what are not.

#### ➤ CCSA Conference

- Rachel Ceja went to the CCSA conference this year. We learned that we are able to offer a 401 retirement plan to our employees. There is no additional cost to the school to do this. We can give this as an additional retirement benefit to what we already offer.

### 5.2. Sustainable School Update

- Susan and Jim have been discussing the budget recently; it is difficult to plan since we don't know what the legislature is going to do yet but we are doing their best to do the current year planning based on what we know.
- Susan has moved forward with what is now called pre-kindergarten, as opposed to TK, to change when children can enter school. We are still working on developing a small preschool program as well. The best news Susan has heard so far is that the pre-Kindergarten program has a very similar look and feel to what we already have so we can keep our current Kindergarten curriculum and structure the same

with only minor adjustments. Next year the class ratio will need to be 10:1 for TK and Kinder, but pre-K is going to be 8:1. The legislature has pushed the requirement to start this program back to the 2023-24 school year so we have time to plan.

- Susan is also meeting with CARD soon to plan for next year's Kindergarten afternoon program to see how we can serve families on Thursday afternoons in particular without affecting our schools staff since we use those days for professional development. Our switch to extended day kindergarten has been going well for us so far. At the moment, both of our Kindergarten classes are full for next year. We are also talking about trying to do a more consistent afterschool program for our middle schoolers.

### 5.3. Classroom Consolidation

- When the school came back from distance learning, Susan asked the board if we wanted to combine classes but we voted to keep them small while we adjusted. However, as we consider our budget for next year and our teacher intentions, which we ask for every year in March, it feels more clear now to recommend reconsidering class consolidation. Jim has recommended we reduce our budget by about \$300,000 so Susan did not feel hiring was an option, thus the need for consolidation.
- Based on the options available, Susan recommends we combine both 4th grade classes together and both 5th grade classes together. Generally, our class cap is 28 but when combining classes we move our cap up to 32 because there are usually a number of changes that take place over the summer. If students were to drop out, we would not refill their spots until we are back under our cap of 28. We will also ensure these classes have an aide for support as we know there is significant value in having two people serve students than just one. All classes have been informed of this decision.
- Mrs. Jones, who will be taking the 5th grade combined class into 6th grade, has gone through combining classes before so she has experience. We are also going to be introducing the class combinations at the end of this year after testing is over so the students can be introduced to their new classmates and teachers.
- Although Blue Oka has seen a loss this year in enrollment, we are not the only schools in Chico experiencing this down trend. Our classes have been averaging at about 24 students. Additionally, we have talked about how a healthy waitlist can strengthen the school's enrollment, so we are hoping to be able to increase the waitlists of each class so we can ensure our budget is strong as well. With this decision in class combinations, there were no surprises to the teachers and everyone is pleased with their new assignments.
- Jackie, a Blue Oak parent, mentioned that 2 days' notice to learn this information and then attend the board meeting to give our option seemed very short. She hopes that the BOCC takes into consideration that some parents don't look at their emails right away. She feels like many parents don't know this is happening yet. Susan considered putting this decision by the board off for next month but that would put teachers in a waiting mode and they would like to know as soon as possible so they can start planning. Susan feels 5th grade is ready now but if you feel like we want to wait to give 4th grade more time that is possible. No matter who, when, or how the changes are made, it is always emotionally difficult for everyone involved.



- Amber Brown suggested that Susan report to the board how the classes are integrating and how it is looking moving forward but continue with the vote now. Plus if the board waited on this decision, the school might miss the competitive hiring window to fill a vacancy. It was also suggested to hold a parent meeting for all classes for parents to meet before the end of the year to discuss the changes. With this change, our 4th grade moving to 5th grade class will have 32 with 2 on the waitlist and our 5th grade moving to 6th grade class will have 29 with 3 on the waitlist.
- Kristen Brown moves to approve the classroom consolidation. Trisha Atehortua seconded the motion.
- No further discussion.
- Vote passes.

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

- Vote passes.

**6. CLOSED SESSION**

**6.1. Real Estate Update**

**Conference with Real Property Negotiations (§ 54956.8)**

- The BOCC gave direction to the administrator. No action was taken.

**7. NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, April 19th, 2022 at 6:00PM**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

- Chelsea Parker adjourned the meeting at 8:53PM.

Minutes Taken By: Alexandra Archer

Approved by:



Date:

5/17/2022

