

BLUE OAK CHARTER SCHOOL
450 W. East Avenue, Chico, CA 95926
(Room 24)
CHARTER COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

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Meeting ID: 885 6569 0279

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Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 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.*

***Virtues:** Hold Reverence - Have Courage - Build Friendships - Seek Wisdom - Show Compassion*

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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 6:03pm

1.2. Roll Call of Council Members to establish a quorum

Name	Present	Absent
Vicki Wonacott	X	
Laurel Hill-Ward	X	

Ryan Sanders	X	
Donna Kreskey		X
Trisha Atehortua	X	

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.”

1.4. Agenda Modifications - Request to move 5.3 Facilities Committee Report to right after 2.4 Consent Agenda. Motion by Laurel Hill-Ward. Second motion by Trisha Atehortua.

➤ Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Ryan Sanders	X			
Donna Kreskey				X
Trisha Atehortua	X			

➤ Vote passes

1.5. Audience to Address the Council

This is an opportunity for community members to address the council concerning items not on the agenda. Council Members will not respond to comments due to Brown Act expectations concerning agendas. 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 addressed the council.*

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.1.** Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from 9-17-24
- 2.2.** Charter Impact Monthly Report Annie Gilbert
 - 2.2.1 Cash Flow
 - 2.2.2 Balance Sheet Detail
 - 2.2.3 Warrants/Aged Payable
 - 2.2.5 Actual to Budget Summary
- 2.3.** Point of Sale Transactions/Check Register (September 2024)
- 2.4.** Credit Card Statement (September 2024)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Trisha Atehortua. Second by Laurel Hill-Ward.

➤ Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Ryan Sanders	X			
Donna Kreskey				X
Trisha Atehortua	X			

➤ Vote passes

5.3 Facilities Committee Report

Trisha Atehortua

So the Facilities Committee has not met since October 3, 2024 when 450 Architects presented their proposal. I asked Julie Kistle from Chico Unified School District for help understanding next steps and she graciously agreed to join us tonight and she also typed up an overview of next steps so we could all be on the same page.

Julie Kistle thanked Trisha for the introduction. We are also new to this. She has never been involved in developing a school site on commercial property. We will be getting to know each other very well as we work our way through the process.

The successful purchase of the property is completed and that is very exciting as this has been a lot of years in the coming trying to get this to happen. Kudos to you guys for making that happen.

The money from bond measures lives at the school district. The district is responsible for the spending and the accounting of the bond funds and the things that are purchased with the bond dollars belong to the district.

Moving forward, with the development of the property, Chico Unified will hire the architect. They will oversee the development of the plans and get through the construction project and handle the management of the entire project. All of that may sound overwhelming and maybe overbearing but I think what needs to be said is the design contains what you guys need, there is a lot of input, meetings that will be planned so the community, your school community comes together to find what the needs are with the architect and then we verify that information making sure that all of the needs are incorporated into the plan. So, even though the district will be leading the effort, it certainly doesn't mean we're going to go build whatever we want. It will be a joint effort together, taking what we know about projects and instructing schools and what you know you need and putting those things together into a successful project.

Your Facilities Committee has already started a process for selection of an architect, and we kind of got our wires crossed a bit. CUSD already has a pool of architects that are approved to use in the district. You do not have to utilize one of those architects. You can choose someone else to move forward with. Trisha and I were talking about how you are

first going to meet with those that are in our pool and see if there's interest in them to form a possible working relationship. We do want to come to a decision and get the architect approved by the CUSD Board.

So then we move onto funding. The funding is an issue and this is true for every school. It looks like you have about a million dollars left in Measure K funds. You get about a million dollars from Measure C. That is the immediate allocation that you have coming. If it's successful November 5th there is a ballot Measure for 17 million dollars for Charter School projects. There will be other schools in line for those dollars so it should not be assumed that Blue Oak will get all of those dollars. It will be up to our school board how those dollars are allocated. Some of the funding will be allocated according to ADA and other amounts will be allocated as needed.

Question from board member - I know that you are in uncharted territory a little bit here, however, it kind of feels a little bit like we bought land without any solid plan to build on it. Is that uncharted or is this typical? Where we just figure out the funding after?

Response - We have gone through the process of a number of different ways of funding this. What we don't have is a commitment to how much the funder would give us. Then we came to the place where there's a new bond issue going through the legislature right now. Utilizing the bond is going to be the cheapest and easiest way for us to get the school built. We do have other potential funders ready to talk to us but it seemed like we also needed to have this conversation as well, before we commit to borrowing money to build the school. Let's find out first how much the bond issue might be able to help us. So that is an unusual situation to be in. Chico Unified has a high school site and an elementary site. Other districts have done this same thing, e.g. purchased 50 acres of land for future school use. There isn't a lot of property available in this area. If you find something that works, you really need to grab it, and your school is a little different from CUSD, where we need a lot of acreage. So it is harder for us to find suitable places that are going to be approved for a school site. You have to take steps forward in order to get there, and usually you don't have all the money that would be used up front.

What if's are discussed. What if we don't have funding? What if we end up with just land? What if other charter's step up and chip away at the funding and then we only have 9 million left or whatever amount it may be?

So again, you have Measure C which is one million, and about one million in Measure K. If passed in November we have a bond that will provide 17 million to Charter Schools of which we will receive a certain amount. There is a Community Charter School Facility Committee with representatives from each Charter School who will make recommendations to the CUSD. What if the Charter Leaders all want the same funding for use at their own sites? There will probably be a different process for recommendation of the allocation of the bond funding.

Question - How long does it take for bond funds to be available.

Response - Let's say the bond passes in November. The district has been very Successful on bond sales. But say Measure C is \$239K, so if it passes in November they will do a voluntary sale of a portion of the series.

They will sell whatever they can get their hands on and what they spend they don't want to have sitting in the bank. So it could happen as early as January 2025. It doesn't take terribly long. How do they decide on how much they will sell? I believe that depends on how much capacity there is that they can get their hands on and what they can spend. There is a gap between last year's property assessments within the school district boundary and what the new home sales are being reassessed.

As we go through the next 3 months and the Measure is voted on it would be really good if we were as close to being able to say this is what we want, so we can give the CUSD Board the plan as soon as possible. It is better to get there first.

Julie does not think that we will need to go through DSA (Division of State Architect) for our project because we are a charter school.

Next week the Facilities Committee will be meeting with two or three architects to hear proposals. The Charter Council will need to also meet them and decide which of them is the best fit for our project.

Will the Facilities Committee be phased out as more things get handed off to the district?

There is a lot of leg work gathering information, making decisions that will need to be done throughout the project. There will be even more of a need when we get down to the nitty gritty work like, what do we need? What are the needs for building, working with architects on design, lots of questions and clarifications are going to come up. As much as you think everything is documented there will still be a need for project management. On the Facilities Committee we will have the opportunity for community input that includes everyone. So when we go to put our proposal together for the extra bond measure funding, do you have recommendations for what to include in this proposal? Julie has seen a lot of creativity. She asks what we want to show the board? Think of visually what we can present. A joint meeting of Charter Council and Facilities Committee Members is scheduled for October 29, at 6:00pm.

3. FACULTY

3.1. Faculty Report

Cheryl Grant/Sarah Lee

Sarah and Cheryl present the October report. Huckleberry Kindergarten handwork projects. They sing when they are done working. Second grade dressed up as their future selves. They are also enjoying autumn and harvest poetry. They are also preparing for the George & The Dragon performance this Friday at 5:15pm.

5th grade completed their first Botany Block of the year. Grade 6 experienced Community Building with Ms. Caren. Caren is actually here tonight. The students participated in the classroom norms that they voted on and posted their sticky notes next to the norms. The norms are;

I want class to feel * I will show kindness by * A time I felt best in school was *
Something I want everyone in this class to do is *

8th grade students are learning about the formation of the United States. They started by talking about who the 1st people were and the important roles they played. They have moved on to a simulation of the road to independence from Britain. They are paying taxes all of the time - that is all they can talk about!

Upper grades Handwork they started making positive pumpkins in which they store a positive message and then hide for others to find. They also started a lunch time handwork club. Music is thriving! 4th & 5th grade completed their open string lesson pages. They are on display now. They loved the story of the Land of Staff with (A) Apollonia the Apple tree, (E) Eagle high in her branches, (D) Dragon that lives under her roots, and (G) the Grumpy Goblin that lives deep in the belly of the earth. I marvel at the creativity and artistic ability of these Waldorf school children. Music appreciation continues to be rewarding - watching the students share their feelings and thoughts about music in a safe environment and also listening attentively to what they want to learn. Choir is on fire with singing! We learned about harmonies and how to find them this past week. Such fun! We

are singing some beautiful songs that really bring out the children’s individual personalities.

The resource room with Ms.Jo has been busy learning about our coping skills and how/when to use them! We made “Coping Capes” so that we can wear our coping skills daily!

Middle School Faculty Discourse Questions - At the weekly Faculty meeting we are discussing things that are coming up and supporting each other. The question this week that was discussed - What hurdles are we facing to maintain a healthy and sustainable 6-8th grade program.

4. BUSINESS

- 4.1. School Enrollment Susan Domenighini
Enrollment is currently at 220. This is where we landed on census day which is the day that enrollment is counted for the year.
- 4.2. BCOE Librarian of Record Svcs. Contract Discussion/Action
We are required to have a librarian of records and the Butte County Office of Education does provide this service for us. This is the yearly contract that we are required to renew. We are following State protocol by having this service. The service keeps us in compliance. Trisha Atehortua motion to approve the contract. Laurel Hill-Ward second motion.
➤ Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Ryan Sanders	X			
Donna Kreskey				X
Trisha Atehortua	X			

➤ Vote passes

- 4.3. Land Acknowledgement/Celebration Discussion/Action

Caren discusses the connections she has made with tribal leaders of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe. There are plans for a land blessing on December 5, 2024 at the site of our future school. They are currently discussing the possibility of a tribal group of dancers coming to do a presentation along with an elder of the tribe blessing the land afterwards. We are also going to ask for their guidance with reviewing our current land acknowledgement. Is this the kind of acknowledgement that we should have?

We are hoping for expanding community connections and relationships to support ongoing education in our community.

Vicki Wonacott motion to approve the date for the land blessing to be December 5, 2024. Ryan Sanders second motion.

➤ Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Ryan Sanders	X			
Donna Kreskey				X
Trisha Atehortua	X			

➤ Vote passes

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1. Finance Committee Report

Ryan Sanders

Short meeting for Finance. We talked about the budget. Enrollment was at 219 and ADA at 93%. There was a \$270K deficit partially due to a reporting error. Now that number has changed to \$130K and we feel fairly certain that this is correct. Really boils down to our budgeted enrollment number being at 234. That is concerning, I would say also the other topic of discussion on that item is that next year there will be other one time funding that is going to end. So we are operating at a deficit and we see we will for sure see less funding next year. We had an update on the new school site. We are currently reviewing the administrative pay scale. There have been no decisions there. We are in review at the moment. We got to see the classroom account balances. It was the first time I've ever seen that. They are pretty broad range of values. We approved a grant application.

Question -

So are you going to have discussions about relieving some of that deficit?

Response - Still too early to tell where cuts may need to be made it is difficult to get this done any earlier than December. There is more work that needs to be done first. Looking at the current numbers it isn't clear yet.

Though when it is time the Finance Committee can make recommendations on scaling back certain areas of the budget.

Question - The charges from the printers were shared with the Faculty. It doesn't seem like a huge charge. Why is it a thing?

Response - This charge is only for the copier use. It does not include the volumes of paper use and other costs. There is also machine maintenance and financing. So we are in the process of tracking this for the first time. We are looking at how much it costs per classroom and per student to make photocopies. We are working on managing this and a good way to assess that is to look at our trash. One

question, are we recycling for student use? We have let the teachers know that we want to be aware of that. Initially we have given them caps on printing/copying and some have doubled their cap already. Some that have not made a copy yet this year. At every other district school they have some level of control and we have never had that.

- 5.2.** Parent Council Report Susan Domenighini
There is no report from Susan at this time. At their last meeting the Parent Council mostly talked about the Harvest Festival coming up this Friday.
- 5.3.** Facilities Committee Report Trisha Atehortua
We have already covered Facility updates earlier in this meeting.
- 5.4.** Community School Partnership Caren Lehe
Caren Lehe gave her community schools report. Recently attended the Community Coordinator Huddle at BCOE. The hosted School Ties who presented a training on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. We hosted our first Community Resource Fair last month. It was a great success and with approval I would like to make this an annual event. The Advisory Committee update I have for you is that Donna Kreskey and Emma Todd will be joining us in Anaheim for our first off site meeting of the CEI Community Engagement Initiative. BCOE asked if I would be willing to allow them to interview me about what I have done in the community schools work. I have the interview in my report. We are inviting Spencer from Healthy Play to return on January 6th. We also have a Dia de los Muertos Celebration that we're having here at school.
- 5.5.** Attendance/Behavior Susan Domenighini
This report is from Amanda as she did this for the month of September through October 2nd. Attendance was 93%. We had 77 students with **perfect attendance** and 14 with only one absence. The total number of students with **great attendance** is 91 students. This means they had one absence. Dress up attendance spirit days went well. We had a fan favorite that seemed to be **future career day**. Overall we are seeing quite a few illnesses in students and staff. The attendance team will focus on 8th grade and support the class with an attendance incentive in order to gain buy in. Shout out to Ms. Brittany second grade teacher she had the class with the highest attendance percentage 97% and Ms. McDonald 5th grade with 96% attendance. Behavior report was reviewed and shared. Totals for referrals and minor referrals went down significantly. We are working with Philip James from BCOE for restorative practices. He also helps with SEL.

6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1.** Executive Director's Report Susan Domenighini

I don't know. I did get this done late this afternoon, so maybe we don't have it

We went back to doing Favorite Fridays again. You'll remember this or our favorite moments. So here are some of the things the teachers said, and Staff said.

1st grade. One of my students got a makeup kit for her birthday. She has been coming to school with the wildest looks. I love that her parents let her leave the house with her fullest creative expression. One day she wrote on her face, Ffb. Instead of bff, and was so proud to tell me that I was her bff.

This is from 4th grade, I believe. I received a hand-drawn card in soft, cursed crayon from a student who has struggled with kindness and self-confidence. An at-risk youth is coming into her greatness. It's so tender to read the words of an old, older child while holding memories from 1st grade she wrote, Hi, Miss Jennifer, this is _____. I noticed that when I do good at my work you tend to smile at me making me feel happy. She then drew a small flower and labeled it Week One. I can't do it, and a larger flower with Week 7, I can do it!

On Thursday, this week we had a spontaneous, lively discussion about indigenous people on various continents and the coming of the conquistadors. This is from 8th grade. It was the 1st main lesson all year, where most students were engaged and enjoying learning. Learning filled me up.

This week. I spent some time in 7th grade while we waited for a substitute to get there before Miss Sarah left, she announced. This is Miss Kelly from the office she has her walkie on and maybe her phone too, because she has lots of jobs. Don't harass her. It was difficult not to laugh, but I kept it together so that they would take me seriously. They were lovely and fun.

Staffing reports. There are no changes though we had two of our classroom teachers go to Bal-A-vis-X training. Kate McDonald had gone before, and she was in 3rd grade at that time, and she said

all she did was implement Bal-A-vis-X and 3 of her kids that could not read started to be able to read. It's about the rhythm and the proprioceptors. So she and Kari Madera went again. And so I'm looking forward to bringing Bal-A-vis-X back to Blue Oak School and that understanding of movement and rhythm. This is important!

Then I have my coaching days. Thanks, Maggie for scheduling me to not have any meetings on Tuesday, so that I can get into the classroom to observe.

There are days like today, which doesn't happen often but today was off because I'm still fixing whatever happened on Monday. But that ability just to get into the classrooms and that freedom to talk to teachers, to watch what they're doing and to interact with the students in class, It's really fulfilling, I think, for everybody for me to be able to do that.

Amanda left on our leave, I think either the second, 1st or second of October, so we've divided up as much as we can. Her workload with Kelly Chandler and Caren are assigned to help me with behavior. I'm doing a lot more behavior myself and the ELOP coverage. Finding subs all of those kinds of things we're doing, just splitting up the work. Keep the budget down if we can, and so it's a lot of work, but it's good. It's giving all of us a chance to see what the other people do. So it is sort of that required cross training that happens so at our faculty meeting on Thursday there must have been like more than a handful of teachers just showing their gratitude to Susan for stepping up and taking on that, like all the behaviors, and really doing well with follow through and checking in the teacher's wellness.

I actually enjoy it. It's like Caren was worried about me, and I hate to say it. I kind of enjoy the work, so people like, Oh, she has to do that. But I'm like, I get to talk to the teachers about what's really going on, and to the kids and talking to the kids is a good feeling. So I kind of like the work which means I spent a lot of time doing it. We have the dates that we're in the last month. We are looking at the spring concert being changed because of other events around that date. So yeah, so we haven't figured it out. But it is a few months away. So we'll get there. And

then my project's are behavior work, continuing to finish the audit, technology and communication, classroom observations, IEP's, 504's, SST's have really ramped up this month as we're at the 30 day window of starting the class. So I've been doing a lot more of that regular check-ins, doing tours. The Leading Now Academy was online, and in my group we talked about LGBTQ issues and the policies around those. Then the CEI which Caren is working on and continued work on DEI. I'm looking for a deep dive if I can get it to happen into the Street Data book that we received. We heard from the author of that book that it's a way to transform classrooms for thinking and focusing more on student voice and addressing DEI through student voice. We're still working on Webb and Acorn. And then, of course, Facilities. Those are the things I've been working on. Behavior has taken a significant amount of time this month, so some of the other projects are not moving forward as fast.

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday November 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM

8. ADJOURNMENT 8:20pm

Minutes Taken By: Maggie Buckley

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name	Present	Absent
Vicki Wonacott		
Laurel Hill-Ward		
Ryan Sanders		
Donna Kreskey		
Trisha Atehortua		

➤ Vote

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vicki Wonacott				
Laurel Hill-Ward				
Ryan Sanders				
Donna Kreskey				
Trisha Atehortua				

➤ Vote passes