

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

Great Room
Thursday, July 11, 2019 - 4 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 - 4 PM

1. OPENING - 5 Minutes

1.1. Call Meeting to Order

- At 4:08 pm Nena Anguiano meeting called to order.

1.2. Roll Call of Council Members and Establish Quorum

- Present: Chelsea Parker, Monica McDaniel, Nena Anguiano, Trisha Atehortua, Vicki Wonacott, 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, Love of life itself. Let us remember that as many hands build a house, So many hearts build a school.”

1.4. Agenda Modifications

- Susan Domenighini asked that the CharterSafe item be removed from the agenda. Chelsea Parker pointed out that our quorum numbers are out of balance and one parent member will need to abstain from voting to keep quorum.

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)

2. CLOSED SESSION - 30 minutes

2.1. Student Expulsions/Readmissions (G.C. §54962 and Ed Code 48918)

3. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION - 5 minutes

- The Blue Oak Charter Council has made the decision to take no action.

4. CONSENT AGENDA - 10 Minutes

- 4.1. Approve Minutes from June 18, 2019 and June 20, 2019
- 4.2. Point of Sale Transactions
- 4.3. Blue Oak EPA Resolution 19-20
- 4.4. CharterSafe
- 4.5. Approval of Donation
- 4.6. LCAP Addendum

Final review and approval

- LaureL Hill-Ward made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of CharterSafe, Trisha Atehortua seconded.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Nena Anguiano	X			

- Motion passes

5. GOVERNANCE - 10 minutes

- 5.1. Executive Director Review Form C Parker

- Chelsea Parker discussed that next meeting will be a closed session to actually administer the Executive Director review. If there are any categories on which you have specific questions regarding the actions/activities of the Executive Director, you can contact Susan Domenighini to ask. Laurel Hill-Ward suggested that Susan Domenighini fill out a self-evaluation version of the form, so that it could be a resource the board members could review if needed. Susan Domenighini agreed to this and will also include notes as they regard goals. It was also clarified that if a member does not have sufficient information to answer an item on the review, they can leave that blank as the whole board will be coming together to create one official evaluation.

6. ADMINISTRATION - 30 Minutes

S Domenighini

- 6.1. Executive Director's Report

- Susan Domenighini and Co-Chairs met to re-evaluate the end of year to-do list and check progress and plan next steps. We as a school are now working less on fixing big issues and more on developing on-going policy and procedures with a deeper organizational view. Summer Camp is going well in the first week. Nena Anguiano asked to recognize those thanked specifically in the report.

6.2. Property Lease Agreement

Two and three-year lease proposals have been made

- Two and three year lease proposals were discussed for the building. Both proposals are pretty similar except for the fact the three year lease has a COLA increase in the first year but not the 2nd and 3rd year. There is no inclusion of COLA in the 2 year lease. There were a few items proposed by the lawyers that have not been brought to the Leen Brothers yet, but the general language of both proposals are similar to the lease that we have. Susan Domenighini’s recommendation is the three year lease option.
- Laurel Hill-Ward made a motion to approve the three year lease option, with the stipulation that the 2nd and 3rd year not include COLA and that the legal recommendations be reviewed with the Leen Brothers. Vicki Wonacott seconded.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Nena Anguiano	X			

- Chelsea Parker had a question about the HVAC and how it pertains to the exterior maintenance that the Leen Brother’s provide. The school received an energy saving grant and will be using that to replace 3 HVAC units. Otherwise, we will continue with the agreement that we repair and they replace. The Leen Brother’s have agreed to reduction (which is shown by not having the COLA increase in rent in year 2 and 3) that roughly matches the cost of the units.
- Motion passes.

6.3. Health Insurance

Annual review and approval of policy changes including increases in costs

- Susan Domenighini stated that every year about this time Healthy Solutions comes to us with the latest health insurance information. Healthy Solutions insurance prices continue to increase. As a note, we review all insurance options available in our area. As an organization that is under 100, we are considered a small organization. Anthem was the only one that was competitive but it has a more select network and will likely see a rate hike after January. We are planning to continue with the FSA accounts as they have been well utilized and well appreciated by staff. The two proposals either sticking with a 75% to 25% split between BOCS and the staff, or having a 70% to 30% split, which would keep the school’s payment the same, but cause an increase to the staff. The Bronze Plan will have a significant decrease in benefits this year. Laurel Hill-Ward asked about the school’s ability to absorb the cost as it is a potentially hefty increase for staff. Susan Domenighini stated that last year the school absorbed a large amount. At a previous point, the school paid all of the insurance, which was not effective. However, the level of staff contribution towards insurance is a newer thing for the school. We as a school absorb the highest amount on the employee and family plans. Chelsea Parker noted that she was here in previous years and has seen how hard we have worked to be mindful to employee cost. Chico Unified has a cap on how

much they pay for employees. We have worked hard for that not to be the case but this may be a reality for us at some point down the road. Brianna Lee noted just from a historical perspective, it has generally been understood that Blue Oak has ‘better’ insurance benefits than schools with higher salary packages. Susan Domenighini and Chelsea Parker both reiterated that there is a need to look at the overall benefits package and to be realistic with what the school can afford long term. Susan Domenighini’s recommendation is option 1, in light of the budget and the financial picture of the school.

- Monica McDaniel made a motion to approve Option 1, Trisha Atehortua seconded.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Nena Anguiano	X			

- Motion passes

6.4. Leave Policy

First review

- Susan Domenighini stated that this is the last policy we need to complete the Employee Handbook. It is pretty standard but pretty significant. Unused days will roll over towards retirement, with specifics as stated in the policy.

6.5. 10-month teacher contracts

Formal approval of 10-month contracts & applicable contract language

- CSMC advised Blue Oak that the current 12 month contracts negatively affect teacher retirement. The 10th month contracts have been discussed at the Finance Committee and Board meetings during the year. It is also standard at most schools.
- Trisha Atehortua made a motion to approve moving to 10-month contracts. Chelsea Parker seconded.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Nena Anguiano	X			

- Motion passes

6.6. Fourth-Grade Class Consolidation Proposal

This discussion will take place after 5 pm in order to allow the possibility of working parents to attend.

- Susan Domenighini discussed as part of enrolling students every year, we ask for an intent to return. Heather Hacking's class had 16 confirmed at the end of the year. 3 students enrolled in other schools after the end of the year and a few more had verbally stated that they are not returning. One of those confirmed this week via email. This puts us below 14, with a proposed enrollment of 11. A few applications have been submitted, which could bring the class size up somewhat but it would still be quite small. There has been concern in previous years with similar situations meaning that the smaller class gets all new students, which creates stagnation in the bigger class and ongoing change in the new class. Some parents emailed, a few were simply in support. Some had concerns regarding the new class size and how the students in that class would be individually supported. Susan Domenighini stated that we had planned for 2 classes, and those ongoing supports could be used to support the larger class. Laurel Hill-Ward asked if there had been a chance to survey students. Susan Domenighini pointed out that the timing did not allow for that. However, that things like Greatness Groups could be utilized for classroom integration. Larger classes have been successful here in the past, as well as at Golden Valley (who have class sizes of 30). Laurel Hill-Ward asked about making sure there are significantly large enough spaces to support the class. Monica McDaniel asked about the possibility/history of splitting the larger classes to balance out the class sizes. Jennifer Adams spoke that in the history of the school it was quite challenging. Susan Domenighini noted that it could create a concerning precedent that you might not stay with your class, and that this is something more for the team of Waldorf Certificated teachers to discuss. Chelsea Parker asked about what will happen to Heather Hacking in terms of employment at BOCS. Susan Domenighini said that several options are being considered and have been discussed with Heather Hacking; however, nothing is finalized. A parent of Ms. Adams stated that she is concerned that the class will be too large without an Aide and that it may be hard for certain students in the class. She is also concerned about losing a valuable teacher. Some discussion regarding potential student needs with the larger class. Monica McDaniel stated that Ms. Adams is a very strong teacher. The proposed class size would be 32. Laurel Hill-Ward asked for more specific information regarding specific supports. Susan Domenighini discussed intervention support, SPED support, time with a roving aide. Could potentially utilize the specialty class slots for both classes to allow for splits of the class as needed. Nena Anguiano discussed that her son had a large class successfully. A parent spoke about her concerns that the class is bonded and how that would impact the students if the classes combined as they have already had one teacher change. Monica McDaniel spoke about the positives of her child's experience in absorbing a small class into her class. Susan Domenighini discussed that classroom and community building will be a priority if the classes are combined. Laurel Hill-Ward discussed the challenges of a very small class. Jennifer Adams spoke about the history of the tracking at our school. There are various times in the history of the school that we have considered components of this decision. She highlighted that in the case of the previous years the decisions to combine the classes were not made in the summer and ended up having to be made during the school year, which was quite challenging to all involved and that she thinks it is crucial that this call be made now. She also stated that she is confident that she can support this change and fold the incoming students into her class with love and strength and rigor and that she would like to carry them moving forward. She also expressed her concern that Heather Hacking been shown care. The Board expressed their thankfulness for her input. Heather Hacking shared that this decision is hard for her, for many reasons and that she knows her students so well.

However, she does see that the small size may highlight some of the challenges in academic levels. She also said that she would ideally like to continue to work with the class in some capacity. She also said that there was not any opportunity for closure and that she wants to make sure her students have that over the summer. A question was asked regarding an ultimate move to a single tracked school. Susan Domenighini stated that it is really hard to gauge or plan as much of anything is based on student enrollment. Nena Anguiano reiterated that Susan Domenighini is a very strong leader and to trust that she is thinking of all the various components of the issue. Chelsea Parker reiterated that she agrees. Heather Hacking stated that she has every confidence in Jennifer Adams and that while she has concerns for certain students, she thinks it will be overall a benefit for the class, and that she is most concerned about the student's hearts and wants to help them understand this decision.

- Chelsea Parker made a motion that the 4th grade classes be combined into one. Monica McDaniel seconded.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Monica McDaniel	X			
Chelsea Parker	X			
Trisha Atehortua	X			
Vicki Wonacott	X			
Laurel Hill-Ward	X			
Nena Anguiano	X			

- Nena Anguiano thanked Jennifer Adams for highlighting the impact on both the teachers and the need to make a decision in a timely matter.
- Motion passes

7. NEXT MEETING - August 27th, 2019

- There is also a need for a training. Ellie K will be reaching out to board members to schedule a time.
- Next Charter Council meeting moved to August 27th due to August 20th being the day before school starts.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- At 6:40 pm Nena Anguiano adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: Brianna Lee

Approved by: _____