

Board Business Meeting Minutes

Date: December 8, 2020, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

A. Opening, 6:00 p.m.

A1. Call to Order and Zoom board picture

Beau B. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Zoom photo of board members taken by Eric.

AI: Eric - place the board pictures on Google Drive and share location with the board.

A2. Attendance & Introductions

- Present: Beau Bump, Liv Helmericks, Bryan Kimbell, Melinda Kerst, Jon Pointer, Eric Richardson, Rachael Sudhalter, Mary Wolf, Nancy Sexton (faculty liaison)
- Late: Mary Wolf
- Absent:
- Guests: Stephane Cosby (interested parent), Dave Cosby (interested grandparent), Amanda Griffith, Ashley Haas (parent)

A3. Our Mission: [Cultivating the Creative Mind](#)

A4. Public Comment (3 minutes per person, Limit 20 minutes total)

There was no public comment.

B. Preliminary Matters, 6:15 p.m.

B1. Approve Minutes from Prior Regular Board Meetings ([11/10](#))

MOTION: Beau B. moved to approve the minutes, Melinda K. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

B2. Call for Late Additions to Agenda

B3. Approve Meeting Agenda

MOTION: Beau B. moved to approve the agenda, Eric R. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

C. Board Education

C1. Presenter: Jon Pointer

Topic: The Golden Spiral

Materials: Print the linked [pdf](#) and bring a compass (or [make your own using pencils](#)).

C2. Next Month Presenter: No education topic for January.

Topic: N/A

D. Regular Business, 6:30 p.m.

D1. Consent Agenda (Confirm Consent Designation)

D1.1 Policy Review (i.e. no discussion, if item pulled move to bottom of D):

D1.1.1 - School Policies: [FEG](#), [FEH](#), [FF](#), [GBJ](#)

MOTION: Mary W. moved to approve the school policies on the consent agenda, Eric R. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

D2. Review [Strategic Plan](#)

D3. School Director's Report

- Staffing
 - We are coming to a position of clarity on staff issues discussed previously.
 - We are approaching that time of year when we ask staff about the next year.
 - WRT Accommodations
 - We have two teachers who will need to remain remote.
 - One teacher would assist in phase 3 on-site in a co-teaching relationship.
 - We have several health tech interviews this week
 - Hiring one additional paraprofessional
 - Hiring one kindergarten assistant
 - Hiring one assistant custodian
- Midway through the year
 - Time for mid-year status reports
 - Encrypted results with MAPS results to be sent to parents of children in 3rd - 8th grade (likely this month).
 - We have not yet closed the testing window so do not have the summary results yet.
 - AI: Eric - Add MAPS testing results to January board agenda
- Community outreach
 - Wednesday educational seminars
 - Previous seminar was focused on phase-3 considerations
 - Next Wednesday will be more of a Q&A session
 - Mountain Sage Virtual Presentation on December 2nd
- Programs at Mountain Sage
 - Phased Program
 - Mountain Sage Virtual
 - Homeschool Enrichment Program

- Re-enrollment
 - Lottery date is January 15th
 - Currently enrolled parents complete their intent-to-enroll forms by Jan. 8th.
 - Tours happening every week, alternating between a daytime vs. evening tour to accommodate different parents.
 - In January there will be multiple tours each week.
- COVID / Phased Approach
 - No dates at this time on a return to in-person learning.
 - PSD focusing on framework around metrics, how to make those determinations.
 - Likely we will be remote at least until early January.
 - If we are open for any in-person learning we would do K-8, not split by grades.
- Grants
 - CRF (CARES/COVID) Grant - \$136,885
 - Colorado was the only state that passed some of this funding along to schools.
 - ESSER (COVID) Grant - \$21,579
 - We have learned we were approved for the Colorado Charter School grant for \$20K grant for remote learning.
 - We applied for an outdoor learning spaces grant which we are still waiting on.
- Inspiration Friday's on the first Friday of each month
 - This past Rachael Veach on Executive Function
- Parent Circle
 - Will begin to hold meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month
- Students
 - In conversations with parents, teachers, and staff - Some children are doing fine with remote learning, while some are struggling. The holiday's can be challenging even under normal conditions. Liv is very proud of the work that is being done. The teachers and staff are rallying to support each other and bring it every day.
 - Eric: Wanted to say that every morning when Reed signs on we hear Rachael Veach's cheery voice on the conference call.
 - Racheal: Wanted to say that their experience with the teachers has been great. The teachers have had to get creative because of virtual learning and they have all been very impressive including Mr. Van Horn.
- Student Alumni event in November
 - 3 students that are currently 10th graders participated
 - We had parents and students that attended.
- Beau: To Liv, as often as you can please pass on our appreciation for the work that the teachers and staff are doing. All of the planning, the pivots, the execution has been awe inspiring. Example: Seeing the kids outside jumping around participating in Mr. L's class. In every opportunity just please convey that to the staff and faculty.

- Bryan: The presentation by Rachael Veach was great. The topic of Executive Function was very interesting. Kids can adapt better than adults and are adapting quicker than we are.
- PSD News
 - Poudre School District superintendent Sandra Smyser to retire. This is the 4th major district this year to lose a superintendent.

D3.1 - MAPS testing results (discussion moved to January)

Taking a 5 minute break at 7:03, resuming at 7:08pm

D4. Committee Updates

D4.1 - Finance Committee Update ([report](#))

D4.1.1 - Budget discussion

Excellent update by Amanda regarding the budget.

MOTION: Bryan K. moved to approve the revised budget, Beau B. seconded.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

Bryan: Colorado is increasing school funding, some to recover losses from 2020-21 and some to increase going forward.

Nancy: Good because Colorado is 43rd on the list for funding of schools.

D4.2 - Facilities Committee (Committee still on hold. No updates.¹)

D4.3 - School Accountability Committee Update ([report](#))

The committee met on November 18th. It was good to connect with members.

Discussion about how to engage with families under current circumstances.

Will be meeting again on January 26th, 2021.

AI: Eric - Include an agenda item on the January board meeting to discuss the role of SAC in charter schools.

D4.4 - Logistics Committee Update ([report](#))

Eric R. - I think we have had a lot of success getting people for the board that began by attending the Town Hall. I would recommend we make a push to get more people to attend the Town Hall knowing that could be a big help with recruiting.

¹ Please see past Facilities Committee reports such as the [9/22 report](#) for more background information.

Ashley H. - It has not been “in your face” that we are in need of board members. There have been messages in the Beat newsletter, but kind of buried in the other content. Plus with surveys and other e-mail messages it can be easy to miss. Would recommend that we do something more front and center.

Bryan K. - Recommend some focus on the net promoter score style of survey. It’s quick and easy and we could use that information in recruiting.

AI: Melinda K and Bryan meet to discuss thoughts on how to alter our NPS surveys to improve engagement.

D4.4.1 - Thank-you cards timing

Nancy Sexton can take on getting Thank You cards to teachers and staff but we need to get our letters to the school by the morning of **Wednesday, December 16th**.

AI: Melinda, Beau, Bryan, Mary, Rachael, Eric, and Jon - Please have your staff thank-you cards to the school by the deadline (morning of 12/16). Ask the person you give them to to give them to Nancy Sexton.

Eric: Another related issue is gifts to faculty and staff. A lot of people want to give a holiday gift to teachers and staff but are not sure how to get a gift to them.

Nancy: There is a staff member on-site at the school every day. People can drop off cards or gifts at the school which can be put in the teachers mail pouch. In fact this has already been happening. Nancy is also there Monday and Wednesdays.

Thursday, December 17th is the last day that people will be in the school building.

Ashley H.: Although it may not seem as personal, for some that want to give a financial gift they have used electronic means such as Venmo which has worked well.

D4.5 - Policy Preview

D4.5.1 - January - Reviewing School Policies: [GCSAA](#), [GCQC/GCQD](#)

D4.5.2 - January - Reviewing Board Policies: [EL2.0](#), [EL2.1](#)

D5. Items of the Month (from [Board calendar](#))

D5.1 - Nov - Director mid-year check-in with Board

- D5.2 - Dec - Thank you cards to faculty and staff
- D5.3 - Dec - Review Parent and Faculty Survey and make necessary changes
- D5.4 - Jan - Agenda item to approve location for posting meeting info
- D5.5 - Jan - Review School Director Evaluation Survey
- D5.6 - Jan - Prepare for February Town Hall
- D5.7 - Jan - Send Parent and Faculty Survey to School Director who distributes
- D5.8 - Jan - Secure locations for Board retreats
- D6. Scheduling Matters
 - D6.1 - Parent circle meeting attendance
 - Who will be attending? Liv will be attending. Beau believes he can attend.
- D7. Miscellaneous

E. Closing, 8:30 p.m.

- E1. List Assigned Action Items
- E2. Review [Upcoming School Calendar Events](#), Board Member Attendance
- E3. Call for Final Comments
- Nancy: I am the keeper of the school store. We were not able to get an online store as an alternative to Winter Faire, but would be happy to provide some good Christmas gifts.

- E4. Move to Adjourn

Beau B. adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

- E5. Closing Verse:

*Steadfast I stand in existence.
With certainty I tread life's path.
Love I cherish in the depths of my being.
Hope I place in every deed.
Confidence I place in every thought.*

*These five guide me through existence.
These five guide me to the goal.*