

Vista School Board Meeting

August 19, 2015 Minutes

Location: 585 East Center, Ivins, UT 84738

Board members present: Neil Walter (President), Brad Owen, Bette Ariel, John Berger,

Others present: Sam Gibbs (Director), Chris Barnum (SpEd Director), MaryAnn Oram (Financial Director), Troy Bradshaw (Tech Director), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary), Marie Ehlers (School Counselor), Kat Garrard (Staff Developer), Mike and Annette Een, Joel Taylor, Chuck and Amber Gillette, Lexi Corbett, Molly Nau, Michelle Rowan, Steve Hall, Christine Shumate (PTO President), Jackie Tomlinson, Diane Biasi

5:00 PM - Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Neil Walter

5:00 PM - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ July 15, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

John moves to approve minutes. Unanimously approved.

5:00 PM - PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Molly Nau- Welcome to Mr. Gibbs. Surprised to see Mr. Oram let go. Wondering if there will be a replacement or chance to get him back.
- ❖ Neil- Cannot answer why Mr. Oram was let go because of confidentiality issues. Important for everyone to know board is 100% focused on fulfilling vision of school- providing arts, education, and technology. Invites everyone to attend board meetings and be involved. Parents are able to petition the board about bringing Mr. Oram back. Mr. Gibbs will be in charge of fulfilling new Vice Principal role.
- ❖ Annette Een- want to know if there is a time frame for hiring new Vice Principal. Wants to know the direction of the school.
- ❖ Sam- Is working on getting a timeline out for hiring new VP.
- ❖ Neil- assures board is 100% committed to assuring that ALL aspects of Vista are emphasized. New technology courses will be offered, but not at the expense of the arts or education.
- ❖ Brad- Adding technology to the school will enhance the performing arts, not take away from it.
- ❖ John- Hopes parents do not see changes as negative. Discussed the interviewing process for Principal- focused heavily on one who was passionate about all 3 aspects.
- ❖ Jackie Tomlinson- Will VP role be the same as before?
- ❖ Neil- it will be different. Discussions of resources and how to allocate those resources will make the VP position look differently.
- ❖ Sam- Assures Performing Arts Director responsibilities will not go away.
- ❖ John- “Shout out” to performing arts faculty. Dedicated to performing arts.
- ❖ Jackie- Is worried that teachers are already spread thing. Will teachers get paid more for taking on more responsibilities?
- ❖ John- explained that it is something that will be developed- we do not have a system in place that we have to abide by.
- ❖ Neil- It does not mean that all of the responsibilities of performing arts will fall on the performing arts faculty.
- ❖ Jackie- notes that it seemed abrupt the way Clif was let go. Felt that he cared a lot about the kids and really supported them in every way.
- ❖ Neil- Thanks her for the comments, agrees that Clif was very supportive and apologized about the lack of communication to parents about his letting go.
- ❖ Steve Hall- Agrees that there are 2 sides, Clif very much supported the students. Admits that there were some issues with Clif in the administrative position while Steve was working as a teacher at Vista. Cautions every one- the board decision was well thought through. It was not a “knee-jerk” reaction.
- ❖ Neil- Thanks Steve for the comments. Invites everyone to continue to support. Reminds them they all have a voice.
- ❖ Chuck Gillette- He emailed the board in regards to his worry about lack of technology classes. Was thrilled to see all of the offerings after school had started.
- ❖ Amber Gillette- Mentioned the cost of fees for signing kids up for after school classes. Asked if there was a reason behind it or another way to pay to avoid the processing fees.
- ❖ Neil- Thanks for discussion- it will be looked at.
- ❖ Molly- Asked about school lunch.

- ❖ Neil- School lunch is on the agenda and will be discussed.

5:30 PM - REPORTS

❖ **Director's Report -**

- **Faculty/Staff Changes**

Hired 2 lunch workers, 2 para-professionals, Kindergarten para-professional, and part time custodian. Still posting for 1 para-professional for sever needs.

- **Enrollment and lottery update**

Sam started tracking enrollment for the past 3 weeks. Added column for actual enrollment number- amount of students in seats. 875 as of today. Still have a number of students on the wait list and waiting for others to get information together.

- **Status of teacher/aid/staff agreements**

All but 1 or 2 staff agreements have been signed and returned. Adjusting a few positions and getting that figured out.

- **Start of School Back to School Night Report**

Well attended. Meet and Greet with Sam went well, students reconnected with teachers. A few bumps- mainly phones left on summer hours. Carpool is going well and working out smoothly.

- **Preliminary SAGE Results**

Mixed results. 2nd year of SAGE. 1st year- process of parents opting out for SAGE testing. State put in that student as an automatic 0- which was worse than doing poorly on the test. 2015 (2nd year)- state decided not to do that. Weights other students a little more heavily in order to do that.

Vista students increased in Science performance. Exceeded state in average percentage.

Language Arts performance over the 2 years is mixed. Anywhere from 11% increase to 9% decrease. Exceeded state in average percentage again.

Lost some ground with Math. Below state average percentage. Even though the average is below our target, the students are still growing and exceeding in math through out the school year. Sam suggests we take a look at math- how we provide support, curriculum review, etc.

❖ **Financial Report – MaryAnn Oram**

- **Audit status**

Audit is next week- Wednesday and Thursday. MaryAnn expects great results.

- **School lunch update**

Lots of remodeling in the kitchen over the summer. More responsibilities with our own program. Had someone from the state come yesterday to observe us during lunch time. Only had a short checklist of things to improve on. Once we get approved by state we can offer free and reduced lunch to parents. School lunch will cost less. Meals are being made in the kitchen with recipes being created. We have a full functioning kitchen where food is being made. Feeding about 280 students per day, expect it to increase once we offer free and reduced prices. Budget was for 400 students. May need to hire one more lunch worker if it increases to 400. Working on policies for lunch program.

- **Bond Disclosures for 2015 School Year**

Summary- “less restricted funds” means that through out the year we receive state revenue, if it does not get spent as directed it does not get counted (like SpEd and School Land Trust).

“Federal receivables”- reimbursement program- came in after June 30th. Overall year to date expenses are well under budget. MaryAnn calculates 68 days cash on hand- 60 days required.

- **Review proposed 2016 school year budget**

Sam and MaryAnn looking over budget as a whole. Not much to present tonight. Taking their time to look over budget thoroughly. Talked about creating 5 year goal.

Neil mentioned that March 1st 2017- Bond Covenant requires us to prepare a “repair and replacement assessment” and a “capital needs assessment.” Bond Covenant conference calls coming up soon.

6:20 PM - COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ **Finance Committee –**

❖ **Academic Excellence Committee –**

❖ **Public Relations Committee – Gail Neumann**

❖ **Governance Committee – John Berger**

6:25 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

❖ 2015-2016 Board Chair election

Bette moves for Neil to remain as Board chair. Unanimously approved.

❖ 2015-2016 Committee Assignments

Neil asked Bette and Brad what they would prefer for committees. Bette said she would be willing to take over Public Relations if Gail wanted to take Academic Excellence. Bette wants to make sure the Board is supporting the PTO. Thinks that the performances at Vista need to be more publicized to the public.

Brad wants to know what the committees are for and who composes the committees (just board members?, parents?, faculty?) Neil explained committee meeting and some examples of things they have met for (budgets, focus groups, surveys, etc) Brad recommends having an arts committee and a technology committee. Or maybe combining all 3 aspects (academics/arts/technology) into one committee. John doesn't think Governance is necessary as a committee. John is willing to move into Finance. MaryAnn requests Academics to supervise Land Trust. Public Relations would be included in each committee in their own capacity. Neil moves to have Gail serve as Academic Committee Chair, Bette as Arts committee Chair, Brad as Technology Committee Chair and John as Finance Committee Chair. Unanimously approved. Discussed what can be done to fill Jason Wells seat. Bette is non parent seat, Gail is parent/non-parent seat, Neil is parent seat, John is non-parent seat, Brad is non-parent seat, and Jason is parent seat.

❖ Revisions to 2016 Budget

No revisions to discuss

❖ Marquee Digital Display Replacement

Joel will propose to Sam tomorrow- Ms. Lorentzen have her art students display their art. Aimee Hansen put in for bid from Rainbow Sign and Banner. (\$16,173) for double sided "message center" Troy discussed other bids he's received.

❖ Technology Course Offerings in 2016 school year

Still being developed

❖ Mission/Vision progress and related goals and associated Charter Amendment

Standing item. Metrics will be required for each charter component. They will be given to us if we don't generate our own.

❖ UAPCS Legislative Roundtable September 1 @ 2:00 PM @ Vista School

Vista will be hosting this. Attendance is around 10-15 people. People in town for meetings in Cedar City so we may have more people than normal attending.

❖ Local Coordination of Charter Schools Wednesday September 9th @ 10:00 AM

Discuss things like school lunch- scheduled to have at Vista.

❖ UAPCS Training September 22 @ George Washington Academy

Admin and board members invited. 6:00-8:30 pm. Training is focused on School Customer Service

❖ Quarterly Regional Meeting, and Board Training

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

Technology Course Offerings in 2016 school year

MISC COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION (if needed)

To discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of individuals.

7:00 PM – ADJOURN

John moves to adjourn. Unanimously approved.