

## Vista School Board Meeting

August 21, 2019 Minutes

Location: 585 East Center, Ivins, UT 84738

**Board members present:** Josh Aikens, Matt Middione, Michelle Walter, Michelle Root

**Others present:** Sam Gibbs (Director), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary), Bruce Hatch, Trisha Lyman, Kelly Geary (VP), Marie Ehlers (School Counselor), Mauricio Sarria, Drew Williams, Kathy Thiriot, Chris Barnum (VP), Jessica Mathis, Rebecca Wainwright,

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**5:05 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions-** Josh Aikens

Dave Hunter and Troy Bradshaw are excused from the meeting.

**5:05 PM- APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**July 17, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes**

Eli moves to approve minutes, Matt seconds. Josh Aikens says "Aye", Matt Middione say "Aye", Eli Milne says "Aye", Michelle Walter says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

**5:05 PM- PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Jessica Mathis-** In regards to addition to school- has 4 boys, 3 of which have moved onto 8<sup>th</sup> grade and have all experienced the same thing. Vista has given her children a "small" feeling and have thrived. The older students at Vista learn to be more conscious of their actions because of the younger kids in the school- which is a good thing. Moving from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> was a hard change because of the atmosphere and older kids. High school is more accepting than middle school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade was a struggle for all of her kids. She is very much in favor of Vista moving into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Trisha Lyman-** Has had students here since Vista started- agrees with Jessica. She feels her children have been "stopped" for that 9<sup>th</sup> grade year because of the culture (language, attitude, etc), and thinks Vista needs to work on whatever they can to get 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Vista.

**Mauricio Sarria-** Daughter Isabella currently attends, son Matthew attended from the very beginning of the school opening. Would like to say that it would be great for Vista to expand. His son is currently touring with a national Paw Patrol show and got his start behind the scenes at Vista and Tuacahn. Thinks the current theater is not done well (sound, seats) and is excited to hear that there will be a new auditorium for productions. Thinks it would be huge to expand Vista and create a better performing arts area. His wife Janet sent an email to Kelly, a copy has been passed around for the board to read.

**Rebecca Wainwright-** Dance teacher at Vista. Numbers were 126 when she started teaching, going up to 180. Boys went from 6 to 40. Notes that she has some students who are amazingly talented. They are professionals- and it's heart breaking that she can't put a leap in their routine because of the floor being cement. She notes that some of the expansion is not necessarily for want, but more for need.

**Drew Williams-** Principal at Tuacahn- notes that they are really excited for this expansion. Agrees that they have had to step up their game. "You can't have too many arts." It makes their job easier at Tuacahn because these students who move onto Tuacahn are already being professionally trained. Eli notes that he is surprised by Tuacahn's enthusiasm because conversations he has had with Tuacahn has made him think they were not on board with the expansion because of it affecting their numbers. Drew agrees that it can affect numbers, but they have good numbers and are not as worried about it as they previously were. Drew attributes the good feelings to Sam's transparency with Tuacahn.

**Mauricio** comments that he agrees- competition is good and can make the other side much better.

**Sam** comments that Vista and Tuacahn have a complimentary relationship.

**Rebecca** agrees that competition is a good thing, collaborative relationship can make things really good.

**Jessica** adds that her boys chose to go to Dixie, not Tuacahn because of their interests (Diesel mechanic, welding). It's ok because that is what they are interested in, kids need a choice because they are all different and have different interests.

**Trisha** agrees with the great environment of competition.

#### **5:55 PM- BOARD CALENDAR**

**Next Board Meeting- Wednesday, September 18 @ 5:00 pm**

#### **5:31 PM- REPORTS**

##### **5:31- Director's Report – Sam Gibbs**

###### **5:31- Faculty/Staff Changes**

Instead of little adjustments here and there, Sam has submitted the entire list of employees for the entire year.

###### **5:34- Enrollment and Lottery Update**

928 currently enrolled down from 996 in July. Most are due to students changing schools at last minute. Waitlist stayed the same. Can take a few kids off the waitlist but not by much and only in a few grades.

###### **5:38- Recent and upcoming events**

This is audition time so we don't have a lot of events.

New air system is up and running, still learning to manage it.

New magnetic lock system is getting fixed.

PTO movie night next week.

###### **5:40- Board Training**

Read letter of testing reports from state. State is doing some studies on the validity of the tests previously administered last year. After results of study state will decide how they will use the testing information. We will not receive scores until after October board meeting. Sam also presented the board with the updated flow chart.

##### **5:50-Financial Report – Troy Bradshaw**

###### **- Financials and Budget Review**

Sam is going over budget for Troy. Federal revenues are only given as a reimbursement so that shows a zero right now. Most funds will be received after state has verified enrollment.

#### **5:55 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

##### **5:55- FY SY Budget-**

No changes.

##### **5:58- Revised board election policy**

Board discussed if we want to replace her or leave it open. Eli brings up the option of making it a 3-year term instead of 2-year because the first year is mostly spent learning. Sam brought up the idea of bringing on a professional educator to the board. Eli suggests a 3-year term and every other year 2 would term out. 3 parent and 3 non-parent seats, plus the "wild card" that can be either. Board requests Sam to re-create some of the voting terminology. Kelly asks if new board members would have been willing to commit to 3 years. Majority agree that 3 years is harder to commit to. Michelle Walter proposes 2-year terms and to appoint someone to fill Bette's seat. Board agrees to discuss at next board meeting.

##### **6:14 -Employee Complaint Policy**

Sam put "Board Chair" instead of Marie Ehlers for ombudsman.

**6:15-Recognizing Constitutional Religious Freedom in Schools**

done

**6:15-Separation and Severance Policy**

Tabled for next month

**6:15- Approve engagement with Squires Auditing**

Eli moves to approve, Michelle Walter seconds. Eli moves to approve minutes, Matt seconds. Josh Aikens says "Aye", Matt Middione say "Aye", Eli Milne says "Aye", Michelle Walter says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

**6:16-Carpool traffic flow**

Josh- is in Red zone for car pool. He drives up 400 to intersection in the morning- there are bikers and drivers everywhere and this makes it very difficult to get through intersection. Board discussed all the possibilities of traffic flow in the mornings. Eli mentioned using back fire lane on side of school as an option for cars to go through.

**5:57-Bette Arial's resignation**

Eli moves to accept Bette's resignation effective immediately. Michelle Roots seconds. Josh Aikens says "Aye", Matt Middione say "Aye", Eli Milne says "Aye", Michelle Root says "Aye.", Michelle Walter says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

**6:28-Expansion update**

Michelle wonders when the board will officially approve expansion. She has concerns about building on green space in the back lawn. She went to the city council meeting and felt they were not excited about the expansions because Vista does not generate revenue for the city and are concerned about traffic flow. Sam presented the proposal of the new building from the architects- to be built on the green space.

**6:45 PM- COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

none

**MISC COMMENTS**

**TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**To discuss the character or competence of an individual. Requires Roll call vote.**

**6:45 PM – ADJOURN**

Eli moves to close, Michelle Roots seconds. Eli moves to approve minutes, Matt seconds. Josh Aikens says "Aye", Matt Middione say "Aye", Eli Milne says "Aye", Michelle Walter says "Aye". Unanimously approved.