

## **Vista School Board Meeting**

**July 29, 2020 Minutes**

**Location: 585 East Center, Ivins, UT 84738 (virtually via zoom)**

**Board members present:** Josh Aikens, Dave Hunter, Jacqueline Powell, Michelle Walters, Eli Milne, Lex Howard (joined at 6:10)

**Others present:** Sam Gibbs (Director), Chris Barnum (VP), Kelly Geary (VP), Marie Ehlers (School Counselor), Troy Bradshaw (Tech/Finance Director), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary)

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**6:05 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions-** Eli Milne

**6:00 PM- MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION**

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

Not needed

**6:07 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**6:18- School Reopening Plan Approval**

State gave school 26 areas that schools need to cover in order to open in the fall. They have added 10 more to that recently. 990 hours of face-face instructions is not required any more, but 180 days of operation is still required. Eli asks Sam to respond to the UEA position, as well as the enrollment status of the 3 different options. UEA asked that opening dates be pushed back and that re-opening occurred as digitally only in the early part of the year. They did not feel opening face-to-face would be safe for students or employees. Sam has met with several people, including other principals in the area and the head of the health department. He told Sam that simply practicing good hygiene would decrease the spread by 40%, only masks would decrease by 60% and social distancing would decrease by 60%. Sam appreciates UEA's stance, but does not feel it applies to our school and our area.

**6:26-Enrollment update-** As of this morning, we have 1044 students enrolled, 18 on waiting list. Hybrid learning is at 95 distance learning is at 70 students, face-to-face is at 873. Class sizes will reduce or increase based on hybrid and distance learning students changing their option. One option is to offer students on the wait list an option to be 100% online until the following year. Josh asks if he would give them the option to transition at the quarters. Sam says he would not do that because it would test our capacity. They could still participate in the extracurricular things we offer, but continue to be solely online. Sam feel sit allows them to connect to the school and get them ready for future learning at the school. Michelle asks what the odds are of the governor delaying the start of the school year. Sam said up until this week he would not have thought that would happen, but many states and counties in Utah are making last minute changes. Josh asks if we will follow what the Washington County School District will do. Sam says it will be hard to not follow them calendar-wise. If they went to straight online, he would recommend the 2 on/3 off schedule instead of fully online. Josh asked what Sam would do if the district postpones opening school, Sam said he

would consult with the board and strongly consider it. The superintendent of the county says they have no intentions of moving their date, as of yesterday. Michelle asked what will be done with students not wearing masks or goofing off with them. Sam explains it will be a part of classroom management. The school does have 5,000 disposable masks and Sam has asked families to procure their own masks. Sam is more concerned that people will try to take a political stance at the school. Michelle moves to approve the school re-opening plan. Dave seconds. Josh says "Aye", Dave says "Aye", Jacqueline says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye", Eli says "Nay". He does not feel we've gone far enough with social distancing. Approved.

#### **6:07- Approve Site Specific Licensure**

Vista has a staff member who is battling stage 4 cancer. Sam would like to approve a leave of absence for a year while she works on treatment. This is a unique request because we are an at-will contracted school. Eli says it makes sense to him and he is in favor of that. Dave and Jacqueline are also in favor. All board members agree to this leave of absence.

In the past, schools were issued a letter of authorizations for up to 3 years. These were temporary licenses issued 1 year at a time, they were generally used in dance and technology. There is a new way the state is doing this, and the board needs approve specific employees. Jenny Jones and Logan Ostrom would need a site-specific licensure approval from the board. Michelle moves to approve a site-specific license to Jenny Jones & Logan Ostrom. Josh Aikens seconds. Josh says "Aye", Dave says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye", Lex says "Aye", Jacqueline says "Aye", Eli says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

#### **6:45- FY 20/21**

Sam has had a lot of time to look over benefits offered at Vista vs. neighboring schools. He found that those schools offer more opportunities for employees to amass a larger amount in retirement. We currently gift 3% and match 4% which equals to 11%. 15-20% is recommended. Sam would like to visit that soon. Sam & Troy will come back to the board with a plan.

#### **6:55 PM – ADJOURN**

Michelle moves to adjourn, Jacqueline seconds. Michelle says "Aye", Joshua says "Aye", Jacqueline says "Aye", Dave says "Aye", Eli says "Aye". Unanimously approved.