

**Vista School Board Meeting
September 17, 2020 Minutes**

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

Board members present: Josh Aikens, Eli Milne, Michelle Walter, Jacqueline Powell

Others present: Sam Gibbs (Director), Chris Barnum (VP), Troy Bradshaw (Tech/Finance Director), Kelly Geary (VP), Marie Ehlers (Counselor), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary), Chris Clegg, Melodie Jones, Michelle Andes, Twila Kay, Hillary Osness, Emily Caplin

5:06 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions- Josh Aikens

5:06 PM- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Eli moves to approve minutes, Michelle seconds. Josh says "Aye", Eli says "Aye", Jacqueline abstains, Michelle says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

5:09 PM- PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Andes- wants to be a positive voice for continuing wearing masks until we have more information, that there are people who appreciate masks wearing for those who are immune compromised. Chris Clegg- wants to echo Michelle's support of masks being a requirement in school, the current trend of rising cases in Utah shows that we are not doing enough. He feels mask wearing should be a more stringent rule and to encourage those associated with Vista to be tested more often with or without symptoms. Josh ask for clarification on the "stringent" part and Chris clarified that he feels we need to enforce the rule more, not change it. Twila agrees that we need to continue wearing masks and do some more training in order for us to remain in school. Melodie Jones wants to back up previous comments that for the most part the teachers and staff are supportive of the mandate and want to keep our school opened and compliant. Emily Caplin still feels very strongly that we need to find ways for kids to see each other, i.e. face shields, allowing a connection to others. She feels the problem is more with the younger students and their masks being filthy and not being effective when they don't keep them clean. Josh and Michelle want to thank everyone for their comments and thank them for being here.

5:17 PM- COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Kelly feels like the most important goal is to stay in school, Mr. Gibbs showed data that 6 months out of school showed a lack of development and learning. She is concerned about the academic and social and emotional well-being and do whatever it takes to keep students in school with their teachers and peers. Marie shares same concern with Chris and Twila with staff members taking it more seriously. She is 100% opposed to Vista asking for a mask exemption. She listed several officials who have given statements as to the importance of wearing masks and feels that masks are proven to be the best way to protect ourselves and our students.

5:22 PM- BOARD CALENDAR

Next Board Meeting- Thursday, October 15 (Fall Break) @ 5:00 pm

Eli moves to move October board meeting to the 22nd, Jacqueline seconds. Josh says "Aye", Eli says "Aye", Jacqueline says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye". Unanimously approved.

5:23 PM- REPORTS

Director's Report – Sam Gibbs

5:23- Enrollment and Lottery Update

As of Monday, we have 1038 enrolled, which dropped by 6 this week. Sam expects the waitlist to drop in the next few months. The waitlist is relatively low.

5:29- Faculty/Staff Changes

James Haley left this past month, we do not need to cover his position right now.

5:30- Student Performance Data

Reading screener K-5- target is 80%, overall there are a lot more students in red than Sam would like, meaning more students are below level than the target goal.

-Policy Updates

5:36-Expansion Update

We are only a couple month out from ground-breaking, Sam went over a few different architecture and design ideas. Eli asked if the city is allowing this, Sam says we have worked through all the legal requirements we needed to get permits. We are waiting for the state to come back with permits.

5:59-COVID-19 update

Dr. Blodgett gives weekly updates on our area, info from last Wednesday shows 12 school-based cases in Washington County, 0 school-based at Vista, 0 Board of Health mandated quarantines at Vista, 216 BOH mandated quarantines for all of Washington County. Some parents have had positive cases, and have kept students home, but students have then tested negative and returned to school. 0 cases that they could guarantee were student to students spread. 2 weeks ago Washington and Iron county requested to move to green, it was denied and they were left on yellow. Eli asks about teachers and staff having any cases, Sam explains school-based cases are including any adults working in the school. Very few students have had high temperatures and have been sent home. A lot of of the home calls have shown that parents are doing a good job of keeping their kids home with any symptoms.

5:48- Lunch Waiver Update

Schools that have over 40% free and reduced lunch are automatically granted the fees. Any school under 40% is required to fill out the waiver. There's a large financial commitment to that which includes buying more equipment and finding more food suppliers. Sam sent out a survey asking if families would utilize the free school lunch. Out of 260 responses, 102 said they would utilize free lunch if it was offered. Josh asks why some would not utilize it, Michelle and Jacqueline say it's because their kids won't eat it anyway and they don't do school lunch right now. Sam feels there may a problem with getting the types of foods kids would eat anyway. If it is not practical, there is no need to pursue it. Josh is thinking it might be a good thing if we can use federal money to improve our facilities, but there is not much room for that in the grant money.

6:04- Financial Report – Troy Bradshaw

6:04- Financials and Budget Review

We are going through an audit so the Profit and Loss budget looks a little skewed. Federal Revenue is in the negative because we have not received any of that yet, we are relooking to get around \$240,000. Additional income we get in Period 13- which comes in July but we have to record it from the previous year. Josh asks which audit this is, Troy explains it's the audit we get from an outside source to turn into the state. We lost Troy's connection so Sam took over- talked

with UAPCS and was told that what Vista has is the best one he's ever seen in Utah. We got one of the best bonds and percentage ratings out there. Moved to Discussion/Action Items at 6:11 Continued at 6:18. Because of new bond, we have not made a payment yet. We have lower payments than usual because we are paying off interest on the bond. Next month will be hardest fiscal year in a while.

- Report on compliance with bond covenants and state filing deadlines
none

6:11 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- FY SY Budget

none

6:11- Title IX Policy

It's currently a draft, some changes at Federal level as far as expectation, Title IX is an anti-discrimination in the work place in regards to gender and sexual assault. We already have some elements of this policy in our employee handbook. We have to have a strict investigation procedure, list who the director is, etc. It is currently 14 pages and Sam wants to change some elements after the training he received. We are required to have one in place by October 1st, Sam would like to approve it and then go back and adjust some elements. It meets all legal requirements, but Best Practices need to be fixed. He will resubmit next month and have the board vote on the amendments. Eli moves to adopt Title IX Policy as is. Michelle seconds, Josh says "Aye", Eli says "Aye", Jacqueline abstains, Michelle says "Aye". Unanimously approved. Josh adds that he wants all of the admin team working on this and understanding it.

6:23- Mask Exemption Request?

Josh asked if there was any info from the governor's order about compliance and enforcement at all. Sam says yes, it wasn't all in his executive order but the state did indicate that compliance with mandate had to be part of reopening plan. Josh asks if we will have anyone checking in on us and making sure we wear masks. Sam says no, but every case that happens in the school there will be checks made and information sent out on what they have to do. Josh asks what Sam & admin team is doing to comply- temperature checks each day, classroom management reminder. Sam has had not had many issues and problems have been worked through. One student is on a valid medical mask waiver. Sam says the biggest problem is consistent, proper mask wearing. Agrees that they are not properly social distancing at carpool. Eli & Josh want to know about how Sam is working with faculty & staff on wearing masks properly. Jacqueline asks how we can really enforce the mask mandate and get it followed for stringently. Sam first wants to see where the problems are with staff and lack of compliance with mask wearing. Sam says in general what he sees is that the hand sanitizing and desk cleaning is not happening consistently. Jacqueline asks about clear masks to help with the expressions and word work for the lower grade teachers. Sam addressed her and said he will accept any mask that meets the 5 bullets of the mask mandate from the governor, and that some students are already wearing masks like that. Michelle adds that she thinks teachers and students have adjusted, that things are better than she thought and that it's important to keep up with it with cold & flu season coming up. Josh adds that his wife just had a call with Mr. Nickle because his own son has had anxiety with the lack of enforcement of mask wearing. Mr. Nickle did say he could do better on making sure kids are in compliance. Another concern is the dance & singing classes taking off masks to perform and singing at each other. This could cause a "wild fire" and create a large outbreak. Sam asks what would be more comfortable for Josh- he says singing through a mask will work. Eli agrees- the 0 cases, 0 quarantines are indicative

that the masks are working. Sam takes full responsibility for masks being taken off at certain times in school, he believes sports can be played without masks, but he understands the singing in each other's faces would be a problem. Sam is working on a dance letter that has students basically agree that they have no symptoms when they take their mask off for any reason. Eli feels if we can't perform the activity with masks, then maybe we shouldn't have the activity. Sam respectfully disagrees, and gives band as an example. Michelle agrees, and adds that dance is another example. Marie wants to add that Washington County School district did send out a letter to their staff. Marie thinks maybe we should send out a policy to our staff in the same accord. Josh asks Sam if he can create one. Sam says yes and that there is also a grievance policy they can follow (which might be a bit more passive), as well as empowering staff to correct their colleague and ask them to put their mask on. Sam doesn't think that correction gets made with out direct correction. Josh says Sam can help with the employees being able to tell others to put a mask on. Eli agrees with Josh, that it has to be top down. Sam agrees that he can have more conversations with the staff about masks.

MISC COMMENTS

None

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

None

7:00 PM – ADJOURN

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

CLOSED SESSION

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