

Vista School Board Meeting

November 19, 2020 Minutes

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

<https://zonos.zoom.us/j/82838439545?pwd=YUxrVlhzcFINQUZLdHBYcHpFSkJ2dz09>

Board members present: Josh Aikens, Matt Middione (Board chair), Eli Milne, Michelle Walter, Jacqueline Powell, Dave Hunter

Others present: Sam Gibbs (Director), Troy Bradshaw (Tech/Finance Director), Britni Armstrong (Board secretary), Hillary Osness, Marie Ehlers (Counselor), Emily Caplin, Chris Barnum (VP),

5:07 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions- Josh Aikens- roll call.

5:08 PM- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Matt moves to approve October minutes. Michelle seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved. Jacqueline moves to approve minutes from supplemental meeting on November 11, 2020. Michelle seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

5:12 PM- PUBLIC COMMENTS

Emily would like today how much she appreciates Mr. Gibbs efforts and the way he handles all situations.

5:12 PM- COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

none

5:15 PM- BOARD CALENDAR

Next Board Meeting- Thursday, December 17 @ 5:00 pm

Eli moves to cancel December 2020 board meeting. Michelle seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

5:14 PM- REPORTS

5:14- Director's Report – Sam Gibbs

5:18- Enrollment and Lottery Update

Some room for 7th graders to come off waitlist off of digital learning and move to in person. Numbers are pretty stable. Some change will come between Christmas and January with families relocating.

5:32- Faculty/Staff Changes

One person put in their resignation- Kelly Poling. She is relocating to Ohio after Christmas. We will fill it from within by condensing some administrative responsibility.

Michelle VanValkenburg has been battling cancer and working from home. She feels she needs to focus on recovery now. They agreed on a legal separation to help her have access to unemployment and COBRA.

- Student Performance Data

-Policy Updates

5:14- Expansion Update

Should have permit by Monday to Tuesday and should be able to dig as early as the middle of next week. No traditional ground breaking because of COVID. Josh asks about temporary fences- are they going to come in so the kids can still use the field? Sam says whenever there is not equipment on it, we will move them back and allow kids to play. PE classes may be shuttled down to the park if the field is closed off for too long.

5:21-COVID-19 update

Active cases as of yesterday: 4 adults, 5 students. Total of 9 in the building. 1 possible case of school spread. The rest of the cases have been a community spread. Total for the year (July 1) 9 adults and 10 students. Grand total of those who have quarantined at some time is at 353. Josh asks what it looks like will happen after Thanksgiving. Sam says what he sees from his communications with officials is that schools are expected to stay open. There is little school spread but a lot of community spread. Josh asks if lower quarantine number is because of masks being required in all classes at all time. Sam agrees. Moving to masks in dance & PE has cut the numbers substantially.

5:34 Financial Report – Troy Bradshaw

5:34- Financials and Budget Review

October income is at 41%. Numbers look good. Troy reviews what some of the categories are for. \$8,000-\$9,000 upside down in bussing but Troy and Sam feel it is worth it to get all the students to school. Building acquisition shows all of the expansion costs. Benefits started this week.

- Report on compliance with bond covenants and state filing deadlines

Bond covenants are due next few weeks. We may need to get it certified by a CPA. Troy is currently checking on that. U.S. Bank is figuring out how to use a digital signature and resolved it by sending Troy a document stating who is approved on the account. Troy needs to get some wet signatures from those who would be approved on the account. There is a new Fraud Risk Assessment that needs to be filled out and presented to the board. Troy is not a CPA so we did not get points for that. Troy went over each category and explained why he marked each one as he did. Troy wonders if we need a board member policy for #4, Sam mentioned that Dave created a board Code of Conduct and Ethics that was passed this summer, we could just add a signature line to it. Troy also notes that a member of management needs to receive at least 40 hours of formal training for us to get 20 points on #6. We do not have a formal internal audit function (#8), and we do not have a formal audit committee (#9). Those were each 20 points. Josh asks if we need to get 100% on this. Troy adds the score up to a 310 which gives us a moderate risk score. Josh agrees we can do a few things to gain some points and get us into low risk. Troy needs wet signature from some board members and Sam. Josh and Michelle say it looks good and they both support Troy.

6:13 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- FY SY Budget

none

- COVID related changes/actions

none

6:13- Learner Validated Attendance

Sam refers to news report about a month ago that state legislature indicated that Utah was losing learners due to kids not enrolling in school this year. They have asked that each school create a Lerner Validated Attendance Policy. A way for schools to prove that children not in school in person are still learning at school. Sam created a document to show how we are complying with this law. Vista students learning at a distance do need to use a Vista approved curriculum. If not, they will be considered homeschooled. If we cannot validate that a student is learning in one of our 3 ways (in person, distance, hybrid), we have to un-enroll them. Eli asks that we clarify school dates instead of calendar days. Eli moves to approve Learner Validated Attendance Policy with the "10 consecutive days" modified to "10 consecutive school days", Matt seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

6:22-MISC COMMENTS

Sam would like to note that teachers, parents, and students are all doing a great job this year. Michelle would like to say that she agrees with Emily and appreciates him and all that he does for the school.

Jacqueline would like to ask Mr. Gibbs about the Dixie Direct Fundraiser and wondered why Vista was using Dixie Direct as their main fundraiser since the owner does not seem to be interested in diversity and inclusivity. She wonders if there was something else we could support as a fundraiser that is more inclusive. Sam mentions that it is a very easy fundraiser for the school. Jacqueline mentions that the Starving Student cards are similar and just as easy. Sam agrees he can look into it. If the board would like him to look elsewhere he is willing to. Michelle says she is ok with it, and that it was brought up last year. Josh mentioned that we did change some of the ways the fundraiser was used in the school. Jacqueline disagrees and feels that the school is not distancing themselves from Dixie Direct. She feels it is important to show inclusivity to the students and that Dixie Direct does not represent this. Dave asks what the issues are. Jacqueline says that the owner Tony Chambers has spoken out against the LGBTQ community. She has looked at his Facebook page and has seen him post negative comments about disabled individuals and social injustice initiatives. She feels there are other worthy causes in the community. Eli agrees that it is a legitimate concern. Sam says we can take some positive steps as a board and an organization to move forward with this in the future. The fundraiser ends in a few weeks anyway. Sam agrees that there has been quite a bit more going since the last conversation. Eli asks for it to be placed on the next agenda. Eli would like more information from Jacqueline about the issues and Sam has offered to look for a replacement. Sam feels we financially would be ok to not even pursue a fundraiser.

CLOSED SESSION

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

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

6:34 PM – ADJOURN

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