

Vista School Board Meeting

January 21, 2021 Minutes

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

Board members present:

Matt Middione (Board Chair), Michelle Walter, Josh Aikens, Eli Milne, Jacqueline Powell, Dave Hunter (joined at 5:11)

Others present:

Sam Gibbs (Director), Britni Armstrong (Board Secretary), Chris Barnum (VP), Troy Bradshaw (Tech/Finance Director), Marie Ehlers (Counselor), Hillary Osness, Catherine Francis

5:03 PM- CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions

Matt Middione-

5:05 PM- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Michelle moves to approve minutes from November 19, 2020, Josh seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye.". Unanimously approved.

5:05 PM- PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

5:07 PM- COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

none

5:07 PM- BOARD CALENDAR

Next Board Meeting- Thursday, February 18 @ 5:00 pm

5:07 PM- REPORTS

5:07- Director's Report – Sam Gibbs

5:07- Enrollment and Lottery Update

Last meeting enrollment was 1031, as of today is 1030. We have added students to the waitlist. 950 students are set to return next year. 143 have not responded. 15 not returning. This makes 98% retention. 2021-2022 waitlist already has 103 students. We are required to post on website anticipated enrollment amount, along with lottery procedures. Enrollment looks great.

5:16- Faculty/Staff Changes

Taiia Esplin did not return to food service after the break. Sam is not sure if they will re-hire that position. Sam Sly, a night custodian has put in his 2 weeks, a position which will be replaced. Intent to return was sent out to all employees. One paraprofessional will not return, and the rest have all indicated that they will return.

- Student Performance Data

none

-Policy Updates

none

5:21-Expansion Update

Ground-breaking was this weekend and was successful. Sam meets with builders every week, invites board to attend meetings and tour site after meeting. April & May will involve some traffic changes because of the crane being used.

5:27- Troy shared some photos of the expansion.

-COVID-19 update

None

5:24- Mandatory Board Trainings

Additional requirements were sent out by the state that the board needs to complete. It has to do with financial oversight. All members need to complete level 1, two members need to complete level 2. Level 3 is not necessary for our school. Matt asks how they prove they did it- Sam says that there are assurances sent out in June, and this would be included in it.

5:27- Financial Report – Troy Bradshaw

5:43- Financials and Budget Review

The budget currently shows \$30 million of income from the bond. We paid off a \$14 million bond from before. We will start to see an increase in debt service as Troy gets bills to pay for the expansion, until it eventually hits \$30 million, which may not be until next year. Troy mentions that there is no reason to store millions, we are a non-profit so it would be good to spend the money and not just try to keep it. This is why they have decided to give the enrollment bonuses to employees, which they had to take out of the budget at the beginning of the year because of the unknown. Troy anticipates a wage increase because of the new administration in the White House, which will also affect the budget.

5:30- Report on compliance with bond covenants and state filing deadlines

Troy went over audit and bond information. The audit came back in November and shows the statement of financial position. Total expenses are up but most of it is in salaries and benefits. Audit was clean and they found no problems with it.

5:50 PM - DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5:50- FY SY Budget

No action required

5:50- COVID related changes/actions

COVID leave policy did change, the one in place was up to December 31st. CARES Act changed so Sam had to re-write a new COVID leave policy. From January 1st forward, COVID leave will have to be drawn from the employee's leave that has been accrued. Josh moves to approve, Michelle seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

5:55- Head Injury Protocol

Dave & Matt received some communication from a concerned parent about a head strike policy. Sam decided to put one in to place. He talked with the state nurse, and she gave some guidelines for the policy, which Sam created and include: immediate notification of guardians and certain situations where emergency transportation would be called. Matt makes sure that parents are called first before an ambulance is called, Sam says yes, unless there are more specific situations where they would need to call one immediately. Josh moves to approve Head Injury Protocol, Jacqueline seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

6:00- Fundraising

Jacqueline brought up in the last meeting her concerns for the Dixie Direct fundraiser and the owner's actions and statements in the community, she asked the board and Sam to look into it and consider other options. We raised \$5,300 in the Dixie Direct fundraiser this year, which is a very low amount in the total budget and he suggests we do look elsewhere for fundraisers. Sam will work with the business office to find another one that is less controversial. Eli suggests we should disregard the fundraiser regardless of the amount, thanks Jacqueline for bringing it up.

6:04- At-risk learner definition

The state chose to eliminate the current definition, so the school needs to adapt a new definition. Grants have been issued with the previous definition and Sam needs to revise those grants in order to continue using the money from those grants. He has created a very broad definition which included grades, attendance, testing scores, and the identification of a certain subgroup (like Special Education). Michelle moves to approve, Josh seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt says "Aye.", Eli says "Aye.", Jacqueline says "Aye.", Michelle says "Aye." Unanimously approved.

- COVID Leave Policy

No action required

6:07- All-day Kindergarten

Sam wanted to address the option of offering all day kindergarten. There is quite a bit of research on the benefits, but it can be very complicated. Sam intends to move forward with all-day kindergarten, as well as an option for half day. They will run parallel to each other. Jacqueline asks what the curriculum would be like for a full-day versus a half day, and if the curriculum would provide more for the all-day students. Sam says some things will be similar, like literacy and numeracy. Full-day would get some science, math and social studies extensions. We would also be able to layer in "Vista" things like arts and technology. Michelle ask how it will impact teachers and enrollment. Sam says they are still working on figuring that out. There are a lot of possibilities with staffing. He hopes to have it ready by February or March. This will be the first time Vista has offered full-day kindergarten.

MISC COMMENTS

5:19- Vex Robotics competition is coming up, being held at the school. 26 teams will be competing. Tomorrow is the winter concert- Vista- Rise Resilient. It is live and will be live-streamed to the classrooms. Second week of February- 10th & 11th is SEP conferences. It will be digital.

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

none

6:14PM – ADJOURN

Eli moves to adjourn, Josh seconds. Josh says "Aye.", Dave says "Aye.", Matt 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.