

BETHANY CHARTER SCHOOL – Board Work Session February 16, 2015

Please be aware that these minutes are not official until approved at the next board meeting.

Board Members present: Karyn Buchheit, Ryan Hari, Melanie Huebsch, and Rhett Randall.
Absent: Dustin Humbert. Board Appointee Michael Slevcove present. Kathy Frank present as school administrator. 7 visitors present.

Ryan Hari called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

Melanie Huebsch moved to approve the agenda for the February 16, 2015 board work session.
Rhett Randall seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting opened for discussion of Kindergarten class options.

BCS staff prepared 6 possible options for consideration.

- Kindergarten survey has been color coded as to responses
- Teacher from Eagle Charter – has had experience with full-time Kindergarten for 4 years. The 1st 2 months are a challenge with adjustment. There need to be lots of brain/body breaks. This school has ½ day as an option. Teacher sees a difference between those who go ½ day vs. full day with full day seeming more mature, social. Recess/breaks are important. If there are students only going ½ day, then all academic has to be during that ½ day.
- K/1st and 1/2 split? Can be difficult – how is it decided who is put in which group
- Do an 8th grade high school readiness set up? Currently 7/8 split gives them 2 years to prepare for high school
- K/1 – Tricia Bates would prefer not to teach this split
- Offering both full and ½ day – Kathy Frank would prefer one or the other and not have both.
- Not a given that ½ day is reduced education. Reports do not reference that not every kid is participating in full day if offered.
- If we don't offer the same as the other schools in the district – are we hurting the kids overall in future demographics?
- Need to look at facility needs. Any option that takes the current library for a classroom will be an enormous impact on all the other students in the school
- Demographics – offer ½ day with expectation that parents will pick up extra is unfair and skews demographic. Are figures wrong for option 3?
- Was neutral in survey and is now in favor of full day; those with K students should have their opinions weighted
- Should ask “Why Bethany?” All families have varying answers and are probably similar to ½ or all day K.
- K room is used for pull outs and some other things in afternoons. Small room, changing would impact other classes
- Tricia Bates ok to stay in current K room with access to library. Willing to have higher number of students

- Dustin not here and Melanie won't be at March meeting
- What are parents going to do if they want full day and we don't offer would they pull the other kids in the family to keep them at the same school?
- Doesn't feel board is hearing them. Shouldn't be family vs. education – should only be education. Shouldn't put kids at a disadvantage if all other schools offer full day and we don't
- Full day is kind of a trial. It is only mandatory for the schools to offer because people don't want to have to pay for it if they want it. Many reasons to support it, equal number of reasons to oppose
- This is not going away. Will keep coming up, especially if we don't go full day.
- State readiness testing – testing is done at the start of the K year and then the students are not tested again until 3rd grade
- Funding is not stable. Yes, we can afford full day K this coming year – can we keep funding it in future years.
- We are a business. Do we jump into this?
- Vision – promote academic excellence
- Vision – enriched by art, music, PE all of which other schools do not offer during the day. They usually offer after school for a fee.
- Special session – March 9th, check with Dustin, Melanie not available Feb 24th – Mar 3rd
- Long term – conflicting reports – most research stops at 2nd grade. Impact results – some show large gain, some show equal
- Research, optional choice? Not much difference with social development. Kids tend to hang together in the group that they go home with – either ½ day or all day. Don't know if the kids de-clique in 1st grade

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm