

BETHANY CHARTER SCHOOL – Board Meeting, On-Line April 6, 2020

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

Board Members present: Karyn Buchheit, Sally Gauvin, Bryan Rose, Michael Slevcove and Sarah White. Board Appointees present: Jon Kampen and William Posegate. Kathy Frank present as administrator. 2 visitors present.

Michael Slevcove called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Sarah White moved to accept the consent agenda consisting of approving the agenda for the April 6, 2020 board meeting and approving the minutes for the March 2, 2020 board meeting. Sally Gauvin seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

- a. Any new information from SFSD/ODE on resuming “normal” school. Nothing new at this time. Could go either way. Waiting on decision from governor.
- b. Pay status for BCS employees – will be paid through closure. Supposed to be funded as normal. Pay as if normal hours worked. Decision through governor at this time.
- c. Distance Learning – BCS staff has been working on this and touching base with all students. Planning to try to do some lessons, with teachers doing so for each grade. We are currently ahead of the game. Staff calling parents individually. 100% of our students have access/opportunity. Emails from teachers to families. Students are supposed to be able to progress to next grade level. Work to be adjusted at start of next school year.
- d. 5th/6th outdoor school and 7th/8th trip – cancel both for this year. 7th/8th don’t want to go to Seattle this year. Try to give 8th grade and “exit” of some sort. Don’t want to get kids hopes up and then have to disappoint.
- e. Enrollment Forms and Lottery – Kathy Frank currently getting names, and other essential information and letting families turn in fully completed forms later. Only 1 current student not planning on returning next year. Discussion on holding lottery at next meeting or putting off. Recommend to try to keep things as normal as possible. Going ahead with lottery will help ease worry/concern about where a family will go next year. Plan to hold lottery at May meeting even if meeting is on-line; just need to make sure putting names in pot and draw is visible on screen so that there is no question about fairness or draw being “fixed”.
- f. Graduations – would like to see happen. Do a wait and see at this time. Make it happen if we can do so. Can look at doing something virtual with an actual physical event later.
- g. Charter Contract – Kathy Frank reports that a contract rough draft is supposed to be coming in soon. Will pass on to board as soon as she received it.
- h. Exit Interview for Sally Gauvin.
 1. ***Why did you originally agree to serve on the board?*** *I wanted to be involved in my children’s school, make a difference.*
 2. ***Was your understanding about the requirements of serving on the board consistent with your actual experience?*** *I think so. I have served on boards, and reported to corporate boards, previously and had an idea of how they work.*
 3. ***What suggestions do you have for improving board performance?*** *Keep it on track, while allowing time to work out hard topics. Don’t always wait for the next meeting, thoughts, momentum, passion gets lost when things are pushed off. I would highly recommend the board*

consider two shorter meetings a month. One for business and one for those other things that come up; it can always be cancelled if not needed. The board is reactionary. Being on a board is not just 4 hours a month. There is work that should be done between meetings. Because we have no one-board member appointed to really help keep up with the pulse of the school, and a limited staff (one administrator), we as the board, lose opportunity to work through issues / details thoughtfully and with consideration when we only meet once a month. In my opinion, this causes a once a month business meeting, to become overwhelming and reactionary.

4. ***What are your feelings about leaving the board?*** *I feel good actually. First, I want to say that I have enjoyed the dynamics of the board members and the discussions. I will miss every one of you and have learned a lot about myself, my community and I will be forever grateful for the honor of serving on the Bethany Charter Board with some extremely dedicated and wonderful community members. Thank you. I feel good because I feel that I leave the board in a better place and with very capable hands to continue to move the school forward and not leave it to status quo. Over the past 3 / 4 years, some good things have happened with the school, though some of it may have been uncomfortable (moving classrooms around more than once). The school is safer and supports ADA students. We have identified some issues and have either fixed them or are fixing them, and we have a long-term plan (though we need to know how to fund that plan).*
5. ***What did you like best and least about serving on the board?*** *The tenacity and commitment of the board members. I will also miss, immensely, the 8th graders honors presentations. The long hours once a month, and feeling like we don't have resolution on topics that may need more time.*
6. ***What advice would you offer incoming board members?*** *Be patient, be open minded. Everyone on the board has a different background, different way of thinking about the world, as do all the students; be mindful of that and those differences. And most importantly, you are there for the children; their parents yes; but at the end of the day, it is the kids. They need us more than you know to help them with their futures. Parents choose Bethany for a reason and those reasons are vast. You are one voice, who is serving the whole.*
7. ***What would you do differently?*** *Be more patient.*

Emailed report from Kathy Frank

- *We are beginning week 3 of Bethany Charter School Remote Learning. We have been receiving emails, vides, photos, from students and parents expressing appreciation, and the helpful feedback. These positive responses are affirming the truly amazing work our staff at Bethany and their dedication to our cubs in translating their teaching expertise into effective distance learning. We are working together to get it right — the workload, an appropriate amount of time on and off line, the expectations for learning, and a balance of work time, down time, play time, and family time and also the health and personal needs of our community. Recently Oregon Department of Education published a toolkit to with a timeline and implementation guidelines. We are making small adjustments to fit STATE recommendations.*
 - *Distance Learning for All - State of Oregon*
 - *<https://www.oregon.gov> › Distance Learning for All Guidance March 2020*
- *Where Bethany Charter School is at:*
 - *Focus on core skills, not simply content coverage. This means that while we are attempting to move students along with curriculum goals, we know that nothing fully replaces what is done in the classroom. Lessons will be pared down, along with time and product expectations for students.*
 - *Present lessons in a way that allows students access throughout the day. For families, this means students can watch videoed lessons or complete assignments when it is most convenient for them and their parents. Remote learning may be more effective when students participate live with their teacher, but we know it may not be possible for every student to tune in on any given day or time. Do what works best for their family.*
 - *Assign “classwork” only, with no additional traditional “homework”. We know students take varying amounts of time to complete assignments, be it in class or at home. Teachers will adjust the quantity and type of work they are assigning as they assess student work and progress. Flexibility along with compassion for everyone’s life situation is key for us. We are not expecting our parents to teach but to provide encouragement and an environment conducive to learning in the home.*

- *Use live chats or recorded lessons when appropriate. If students are unable to attend the live session, they can watch the video when it is more convenient for the family. Instructional assistants are providing interventions or reteach sessions for small groups as needed.*
- *Teach and communicate with compassion and flexibility. This is perhaps most important as we know significant physical, emotional, and financial strain can and are new realities for our families. Providing choice boards for STEAM allowing family fun and readily available materials in home.*
- *Over the last two weeks, parents and students have expressed appreciation for the creative ways' teachers are engaging students through activities like virtual Morning Meetings, small and large group chats, live and videoed lessons, story "hours", posting funny motivational videos, and zoom classroom meetings. Staff are also staying connected by having regular virtual staff meetings. Teachers are making personal calls to children and families to check in. Special Education and Related Services: Doing their part to stay connected and offer services.*

A Note about State Testing: All Spring 2020 State assessments have been canceled. Physical education and social emotional lessons being included in the classroom schedule.

We have provided opportunities for technology and art materials pick up and feel confident all students have access to distant learning provisions. I will make myself available to our community.

Board report submitted with sincere appreciation for this wonderful PRIDE of cats we are all a part of.

For next board meeting: Status update; contract; lottery; graduations. Take things slow, try to avoid pressure. Eyes and ears on community – please communicate.

Action Items

a. Sarah White moved to cancel the 7th/8th class trip and the 5th/6th outdoor school for this year. Sally Gauvin seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm