

## BETHANY CHARTER SCHOOL – On-Line Board Meeting May 4, 2020

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

Board Members Present: Karyn Buchheit; Bryan Rose; Michael Slevcove and Sarah White. Absent: Sally Gauvin. Board Appointees present: Jon Kampen and William Posegate. Kathy Frank present as administrator. 3 visitors present.

Michael Slevcove called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Sarah White moved to accept the consent agenda consisting of approving the agenda for the on-line May 4, 2020 Board Meeting and approving the minutes for the April 6, 2020 Board Meeting. Bryan Rose seconded. Passed unanimously.

### Exit Interview for Sarah White

1. **Why did you originally agree to serve on the board?** *I wanted to be involved in decision making about our school's vision, culture, and programming.*
2. **Was your understanding about the requirements of serving on the board consistent with your actual experience?** *Yes.*
2. **What suggestions do you have for improving board performance?** *I would like to see more board work done in sub-committees. I think this would move projects forward more quickly. Sub-committees don't have to consist exclusively of board members but could involve more community members in endeavors like fundraising, facilities, and school visioning. Sub-committees would also create opportunities for collaboration between staff, parents, and board members. I would like to see better communication between the board, the administration, and the staff. We spent a lot of time developing a comprehensive plan for the school with very little constructive feedback from stakeholders, especially staff. I hope that early, effective collaboration and input from various stake-holders will lead to more successful planning in the future.*
3. **What are your feelings about leaving the board?** *I am going to miss working with such a diverse, supportive, and complementary team. I have enjoyed our meetings, the way we work toward understanding and consensus, and being part of a great school community. I am so grateful to Mike, Sally, Brian, Karyn, and Kathy for the time we've spent together.*
4. **What did you like best and least about serving on the board?** *I enjoyed working with my fellow board members and with Kathy. I have enjoyed learning from folks with very different experiences and expertise, finding humor in long meetings, and mostly, for the ability to affect positive change in our school. I am proud of the work we did to address safety and accessibility concerns in our facilities and to create a healthy, equitable vision for BCS so that we can better meet the needs of all students. I was most frustrated by our school's adherence to traditional school practices. Charter Schools should be innovative, creative, and liberated from many of the constraints placed on other public schools. At times it felt like we were essentially operating a regular public school with only a percentage of the funding; and that board decision-making was*
5. *heavily influenced by a somewhat traditional, rigid, and vocal culture within the school that doesn't represent all students and can be exclusive. I also feel at times that different entities within the school (staff, booster club, administration, and the board) all seem to be operating with a different vision for the school.*
6. **What advice would you offer incoming board members?** *It is definitely important to keep an open mind and listen to community members. Actively seek input and perspective from students, parents, staff, and administration. Recognize that every student at Bethany shows up with a whole complicated life that might be entirely different from the life your kids have experienced. Make decisions with that lens. Ask yourself how every decision will impact students with different abilities, students who experience poverty or trauma, students with unique family cultures and religious backgrounds, and changing identities. At the same time, don't be afraid to lead from an informed place. Research best practices and learn from other schools.*

*There are great resources in the state and nationally to learn about innovative, evidence based programs that could work at Bethany.*

7. **What would you do differently?** *I would have been a stronger advocate for a comprehensive facilities plan that was more attainable.*

Sweat Jon Kampen and William Posegate in as board members. Signed oath of office and conflict of interest shown – will be collected when we can meet in person.

## Enrollment Lottery

Kindergarten Waiting List  
(all spots filled by siblings and in-District)  
1. Erica Staab  
2. Cooper Dunstan

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Waiting List  
1. Ven Walker  
2. Anna Prince

## Administrator Report

*My first thought is regarding how extremely proud I am of the Bethany Charter School community for the way folks have handled this surreal scenario. It made a significant impact on many levels, especially on an emotional one. We have given much thought about the roll out of distance learning at the very beginning of the closure and continue to survey our students and parents about the workload and what supports could look like. We know that families are under tremendous stress, and schedules vary from home to home. I would like to give a shout out to our Bobcat students for their hard work. I start my day looking at the students work that has been posted and am encouraged by their accomplishments thus far.*

*Students have been completing all teacher learning plans online and submit all lessons to the teachers through the method indicated on their Website. Teachers evaluate the submitted lessons and give feedback to the students. Teachers and Instructional Assistants hold office hours during school days to communicate with students and families and support learning. Besides math, literature, choice board stem project and a theme lesson the other learning opportunities are enrichment and only completed if the student would like to.*

1. Kindergarten is having virtual Whole class show and tell sessions.
2. Ms. Heneveld has been sending math videos and students have loved following along with them daily on their own time. Some have even gone on to send videos back to show her what they are doing around the house to keep busy.
3. Ms. Heneveld is ready to share a “welcoming video” to our future kindergartners after tonight’s lottery.
4. First and Second Graders have been listening to Miss Turner read daily on zoom.
5. We had a whole agriculture theme last week and the students did a great job sharing what they know/learned about farming and some recorded rather lengthy videos about farms and animals (two parents said that is what motivated their child to finish their other work). She will be doing a theme each week to encourage engagement and fun!
6. They are completing art lessons with everyday materials with Mrs. McDonnell.
7. Students are taught their math lessons at grade level and have question and tutor time if needed.
8. Third and Fourth Graders are having a lot of fun with their Native American Unit.
9. Fifth and Sixth graders have really adapted to all the new technology and are all contributing in some way to the classroom connection.
10. They participated in a creative Enrichment assignment submissions like the Art Recreations (click link to view)  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_r0eTPOr5DDwsgMvttZ2OBtyqMOuKHd7k1ISjE\\_bK6k/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_r0eTPOr5DDwsgMvttZ2OBtyqMOuKHd7k1ISjE_bK6k/edit?usp=sharing)
11. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are carrying on. They are planning for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion. We are working on keeping it traditional but following the guideline recommendations provided by  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORED/bulletins/2891fb0>

12. Mrs. Campbell is hosting open social Zoom meetings with cross grade students to connect and just visit.
13. Mrs. Boatner is organizing our virtual ice-cream and the arts event. Tuesday, June 9, 2020 8th Grade Promotion @ 7:00pm Wednesday, June 10, 2020 Kindergarten Promotion @ 10:00am

#### Distance Learning:

- Pushing focus on math; been going well
- Working well for some students that the regular classroom doesn't work well for. Also not working well for some students that do better in the regular classroom.
- Adrienne is doing social Zoom meetings for the students
- Staff doing attendance sheets and mini surveys. The kids are missing the simplest things.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. Slide show up front; gifts to move on with
- Comments
  - Be clear about expectations; don't provide less; hard to determine what is enough or not enough.
  - Most of students are engaging but it can be random
  - Won't let anyone fall between the cracks
  - More optional stud for those who want/need it
  - Kids report to kids what they like. Do journals/individual path/check in with teacher

Contract Update – Kathy just got and forwarded to board before meeting. Board to review and then meet on Wednesday at 11:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm