

**Santa Ynez Valley Charter School  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
3:30 pm**

OPEN SESSION

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** by Board President at 3:34pm
- 2) **ROLL CALL:**

Robert Feinberg (RF), Board President (2022)	x
Byranie Thomas (BT), Secretary (2021)	x
Kevin Donnelly (KD), Member at Large (2021)	x
Kelly Kay (KK), Member at Large (2021)	x
Heather Stoll (HS), Member at Large (2023)	x
Nicole Brians (NB), Member at Large (2023)	x
Debbie Trujillo (DT), Middle School Teacher Rep. (2021)	x
Eugenia Pappas (EP), Elementary Teacher Rep (2021)	x
Maurene Donner (MD), Superintendent College School District	x

OTHER ATTENDEES:

John Dewey (JD), Executive Director	x
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- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for February 23, 2021  
*Motion to approve agenda: KD*  
*Second: DT*  
*Discussion: HS would like to move to make a motion to make school reopening as an action item from discussion item. No discussion occurred.*  
*Vote: Approved 5-4-0*

OPEN SESSION

- 5) **Public Comment**
  - a. *Letter included in packet. Kathy Valasquez on behalf of nine members of the community: group used Charter campus to walk their dogs and due to COVID the gates are locked restricting their access. Cite detriment to surrounding community and request the opportunity to purchase a doggie bag dispenser and trash can to be installed on the Charter campus to encourage the less conscientious community members to pick up after their dogs while still allowing community access to the Charter fields once more.*
  - b. *Letter included in packet. Lara re: 8a on behalf of Charter Teachers Association. Cites all the success with in-person instruction and the work of staff to go above and beyond. Expresses concern that the Charter Board will supersede the recommendations of the Charter COVID Task Force by opening more extensively before the recommended timeline. Teachers Association does not feel an actionable item is necessary at this time. COVID Task Force has recommended adding Wednesday when the county reached the red tier once more.*
- 6) **Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting January 26, 2021  
*Motion to approve minutes: KK*  
*Second: KD*  
*Discussion: None*  
*Vote: Approved 9-0-0*
- 7) **Standing Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report

*Report included in packet. On target to balance the budget this fiscal year. Explanation of SISC III - represent health insurance of certified staff (Aug-Feb).*

b. Director's Report

*Report included in packet. In January a new raft of requirements for COVID compliance. Regarding Annual Appeal 76% participation - total of \$23,00. Fourth grade reached 100% participation and are being rewarded accordingly. Enrollment is going well for upcoming school year - 20 Kindergarten applications so far with more inquiry and tours to come. Transition to PowerSchool in the works. RF asked if we know the source new applicants. JD responded most are neighbor and friend referrals.*

8) **Informational/Discussion**

a. 'In-person learning' updates and discussion, including adding Wednesdays to in-person schedule and extending school day

*HS would like to move forward with opening further. Demonstrated open safely the last 4 months.*

*Concerned about not meeting required instructional minutes. Cited latest CDC and Santa Barbara County Health Department statements regarding school opening. EP said that other schools just opening are doing so in hybrid model. At Charter Wednesdays are home instruction. All instructional minutes are accounted for. NB stated originally Wednesdays were used for deep cleaning per CDC recommendation, but there have been changes in CDC recommendations so we can adjust. KK appreciate all the teachers are doing. The request for an action item was not meant to create a teachers vs parents situation and that is regrettable. The pandemic is a fluid situation and the recommendations in the Teachers Association letter are from December and there is new information. DT reminded the Board that Charter did open with a waiver and have opened well. We are close the red tier and feels we should wait until the metric is reached as we had already decided/planned. BT expressed that middle school seemed fine with the half days and any more in-person instruction should be focused primarily on K-4. KD agrees. Teachers doing incredible job. Trend lines are good. Low rate here in the valley. EP feels will be there soon. We moving forward. DT stated the whole idea of the task force was to represent the school community and guide the Board with the data. HS challenged that metrics have changed and we should respond accordingly. RF stated that when Charter applied for the waiver he was not necessarily ready to use it. The community just went through months of horrendous peak. We're almost there. Feels strongly that in-person on Wednesdays should be added when the county reaches red tier. KK community transmission rates are not to tied to number of cases, but to safety precautions. May have made an error by not including more parents on the task force. The current Task Force includes one administrator, five teachers and two parents. RF doesn't see the goalposts as shifting. HS wondered what the experts say and that should be our guiding principle. We've learned a lot in the last few months. There is harm to the children by limiting in-person instruction. Public health is saying we should reach the metric of less than 25 cases per 100,000 good by Wednesday 2/23 and should be ready to open more fully. EP expressed that over half of staff have morbidity and have a buy in just as much parents. It was scary to be teaching in November, December and January. RF believes it is the Director's decision. The Board acts in an advisory capacity. JD said he has spoken to many people and sees all sides. Leans more to adding in-person Wednesday, but because of the strength of feeling among the faculty and being close to red tier as a county he would like to wait. Continue to use the Task Force because it represents the collaborative nature of school. Commitment to open Wednesdays as quickly and safely as possible. Best served by allowing the process to continue to a quick resolution.*

9) **Board Business**

a. Updates from ad-hoc committees

i. Development

*KK mentioned Annual Appeal. the April 30th cow pie. Need to decide virtual or live. Virtual will be much easier can keep the cow at the field. NB recommend should be run by other parents. Decision made to proceed with the event virtually.*

*ii. Marketing RF reported contact with Jessie Thomas, a Charter parent, who has experience in social media marketing and website design. Has offered to assist with upgrade of website.*

*iii. Governance BT said the committee is continuing to pursue activities from last month.*

*Asked how to proceed with implementing the committees proposals. RF said to contact Board members for signups, etc.*

10) **Action Items**

a. Approve Staffing Plan 21-22

*Motion to approve Staffing Plan 21-22: KD*

*Second: BT*

*Discussion: KK asked if the current Kindergarten teacher is a provisional contract. JD affirmed.*

*Vote: 6-0-3*

b. Approve 2nd interim budget

*Motion to approve 2nd interim budget: KD*

*Second: DT*

*Discussion: HS since there is money in the budget it would be nice if the school would cover the*

*cost*

*of children afternoon care which is typically in school hours. JD not sure how we will end up. Have been in deficit so want to be conservative.*

*Vote: 8-0-1*

c. Approve 'Comprehensive School Safety Plan'

*Motion to approve 'Comprehensive School Safety Plan': KD*

*Second: KK*

*Discussion: None*

*Vote: 9-0-0*

10) **Future Agenda Items**

a. Board Meeting March 23, 2021 at 3:30pm

*Discussion: KK asked for clarity on how to add agenda items to next agenda. JD explained that any board member can request an agenda item, but the Board President and Secretary review the agenda for approval.*

*HS would like to have re-opening added as an action item.*

11) **Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

*None.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

12) a. *None.*

**OPEN SESSION**

13) Report out from Closed Session

*None.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm*