

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2016
Room 304 at 6:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** by Board President

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

- 2) **ROLL CALL:**

Meg Rydman (MR), Board President (2018)	X
Mark Swanitz (MS), Secretary (2019)	X
Heather Fletcher (HF), Treasurer (2018)	X
Melanie Sutton Hodgdon (MSH), Member at Large (2018)	—
Robert Feinberg (RF), Member at Large (2019)	X
Elizabeth Dowhower (BD), Member at Large (2017)	X
Roxanne Usher (RU), Middle School Teacher Rep. (2016)	X
Linda Mayer (LM), Elementary Teacher Rep (2017)	X
Jim Brown (JB), Superintendent College School District	—
OTHER ATTENDEES:	
Mark Palmerston (MP), Executive Director	X

- 3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for December 13, 2016

Motion to approve the agenda: BD

Second: RF

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Neary, parent, spoke about the February 2015 survey. He expressed dismay that 40% of parents are unhappy with the direction of the school. He specifically discussed Goal 1 of the LCAP which addresses innovative and academically challenging environment. He asked about what metrics are used to measure the success of this goal and what support the school offered to teachers to reach this goal. He further discussed the elements of that goal which addressed new technology. He recast the book Play as new technology by definition and suggested that it should be used in Physical Education. Mr. Neary discussed how leadership can and should play a role in innovating instruction in P.E. He concluded by suggesting that P.E. could be more innovative and differentiate instruction by allowing dancers to dance, athletes to play ball sports, and those who are less physically inclined to pick up trash.

- 5) **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting November 29, 2016

Motion to approve the consent agenda: BD

Second: RU

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

- 6) **STANDING REPORTS**

- a. Teachers' Report

Primary Grades

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners are working on learning how to form the letters "Dd" and "Rr" and to identify their sounds at the beginning and ending of words. In math they have been working on addition. In social studies they have discussed goals and dreams. In science they are learning about the five senses. They have also been busy doing various holiday crafts with their 7th and 8th grade helpers.

1st Grade: First graders have been working on their performance for the Winter Show and even went to Atterdag Village to practice. Academically, in language arts, they are learning about silent letters and clusters with r and s. In math, they have been experimenting with the hundreds charts and using them to quickly find “one more,” “one less,” “ten more” and “ten less.” They have been learning about air in science and how smells travel as a gas and how wind pushes the gas through the air.

2nd Grade: There was no report from second grade.

3rd Grade: Third graders are working on a math project about Christmas gift giving which includes estimating, rounding, addition and multiplication skills as students try to “buy” presents for their family without going over a set budget. In language arts, they are writing about their favorite holiday traditions. They are continuing their study of the Chumash in social studies by reading the book Island of the Blue Dolphins and other stories about Native Americans with their buddies.

4th Grade: There was no report from fourth grade.

Genius Hour: Genius Hour recently completed its first session. Students were able to share about what they learned. Moving into the second trimester with better research skills, students will be learning to use the SBCEO Portal to research their topics.

Middle School

Language Arts: Fifth grade is reading Summer of the Swans and thematically exploring what makes us unique and different from one another. Sixth grade is reading Out of the Dust and exploring literary devices. Seventh grade is reading Stargirl and exploring the theme of individuality vs. conformity. Eighth grade is reading The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and exploring how it’s themes are still relevant today.

Social Studies: There was no report from social studies.

Science: Fifth grade began their life sciences unit with lessons on the human circulatory system. Sixth grade recently made winter ornaments which demonstrated their knowledge of the layers of the earth. Meanwhile, they are now studying plate tectonics and continental drift. Seventh grade is rising to the difficult challenge of dissecting the cell cycle. And eighth grade is exploring the applications of atomic theory, specifically how atoms bond to each other.

Math: Fifth grade is working on common denominators. Sixth grade is exploring equivalent fractions. Seventh grade is learning about the addition and subtraction of integers. Eighth grade is studying exponents.

Physical Education: All students are participating in an activity called the “12 Days of Fitmas.” They also recently completed the trimester 2 project in which they created a fitness routine using a variety of skills.

b. Foundation Report

MP reported on the Foundations recent joint meeting with PTSSO and the Board at the Red Barn on Wednesday, December 7. He said that it went well but got sidetracked on the subject of the auction. A new potential Foundation board member was introduced. The Foundation’s auction committee will be sending out a “Save the Date” for April 1, 2017. The theme of the auction will be “Black Tie and Blue Jeans” and will be likely held at Rancho San Antonio in Buellton. The event will have an attendance cap of 215.

c. Treasurer’s Report

MP reported that SISC will be reimbursing us for their accounting err last from last and this fiscal year. He also addressed the fact that he met with JB regarding the in lieu property taxes. The College School District will be discussing this at their meeting tonight.

d. Director’s Report

MP reported on the CSDC Leadership Conference in San Diego. He said that the mood was somber with the growth of charter schools and future of funding beyond about two years out, especially with uncertainties at the federal level. MP discussed some of his takeaways from the two keynotes. He explained that his Genius Hour presentation went well and that about 15 people attended.

MP told the board that Mary Howe will be returning from maternity leave to the kindergarten classroom in January. MR publicly thanked Mitchi Dragonette for her service as the long-term sub for kindergarten.

MP expressed pride in the school's participation in the Holiday Gift Basket Program again this year. Charter provided Christmas gifts to nine families—one per grade level—and the fifth graders will be delivering the gifts tomorrow.

MP and the staff are researching new student information systems. They have been looking at them for the past two years; however, MP did not feel that the time was ideal for a change. Teachers will be previewing two systems and making a recommendation to him about which they should choose or if they should stick with the current system.

During Computer Science Education Week, MP shared that Charter engaged in a number of activities including all students participating in Hour of Code activities. Teachers learned about SBCEO's updated online portal resources. And teachers and some students were exposed to some programmable robots which the school will be purchasing for use in a new Computer Programming elective in early 2017.

Members of Student Council will be emceeding the Winter Show and are now leading the morning announcements every Tuesday. MP shared that the school is increasing its focus for student council on leadership opportunities. Students will soon have a way to propose ideas for school activities and events; they are learning how to independently plan, organize and facilitate meetings; and they are taking ownership of the Dragon Crew which delivers birthday grams.

Finally, MP asked the board to confirm availability to attend the staff meeting on Friday, January 6, 2017 from 1:30-3:00 to have an open discussion about the current school year.

7) **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

a. Lunch Program Update

MP gave an update on the lunch program. The last three menus have reflected some of the changes discussed. Some new items like Italian Sub Sandwiches have been good sellers. Others, such as the Asian-inspired meals, were not. Last month hot dogs and pizza were the best sellers. HF is preparing financial reports breaking out costs for a future report to the board.

b. Discuss Board Training - January 28, 2017

The board retreat will again be at Firestone vineyards this year from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM on January 28, 2017. MP and MR have discussed priorities for the board's parent survey—keeping it short, including some comparative data about how people's perceptions may have changed year-over-year, and why parents choose Charter and why they choose to stay. The idea would be to keep it to, perhaps, five questions. HF disagreed and felt that the survey should be longer and designed to get more specific information. She volunteered to edit the survey to reflect her proposed suggestions for the board's consideration. There was a general feeling that open-ended questions were not as easily quantifiable for the sake of comparison. MR suggested that it might be better to use questions with a scale and then add room for comments or suggestions. The goal is to send the survey out the first week of January.

8) **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Review and Acceptance of 2015-2016 Audit

MP reviewed the audit of our 2015 books by Moss, Levy & Hartzheim which show an ending fund balance of \$960,063. He specifically called the board's attention to Note 8, the section of the audit which outlines our funding and obligation to the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS). There were two audit findings in the report. The first had to do with employee reimbursements, specifically having to do with a particular reimbursement for medical expenses. The second was a state compliance finding which was the result of CSD not completing and submitting our unaudited actuals on time.

Motion to accept the 2015-16 1st audit: MS

Second: HF

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

b. Acceptance of Certificated Teacher Proposals for Negotiations

MP went over the teachers' proposal for negotiations for the 2017-2018 school year. LM elaborated that a team of teachers and board members have begun discussing their proposals which will next be discussed at January 12 and February 9, 2017.

Motion to accept the certificated teacher proposals for negotiations: RF

Second: BD

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0-2

9) **BOARD ADVANCED AGENDA**

The board discussed the Board Advanced Agenda. The advanced agenda shows upcoming meeting dates and agendas and gives board members the opportunity to add agenda items to future agendas. MP asked the board to RSVP availability for January 6 and January 28, 2017 for the meeting with staff and the board retreat respectively. MP recommended that the board not meet on January 24; the board agreed that a meeting that day was unnecessary.

10) **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There was no public comment on closed session items.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session called to order at 6:58 PM.

11) MOU—Discuss Negotiations with College School District

Teacher representatives were dismissed from closed session at 7:08 PM.

12) Certificated Teacher Negotiations

13) Public Employee Performance Evaluation—Executive Director

Closed session adjourned at 7:52 PM.

OPEN SESSION

14) Report from Closed Session

MP reported on the status of MOU negotiations with College School District. The board discussed the teachers' sunshined proposals for negotiations. As part of his annual evaluation process, MP shared his goals for the 2016-17 school year.

15) **ADJOURNMENT** by Board President

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.