

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Room 304 at 5:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

1) **CALL TO ORDER** by Board President: 5:31 PM

2) **ROLL CALL:**

Meg Rydman (MR), Board President (2018)

__P__

Mark Swanitz (MS), Secretary (2019)

__AB__

Heather Fletcher (HF), Treasurer (2018)

__P__

Melanie Sutton Hodgdon (MSH), Member at Large (2018)

__P__

Robert Feinberg (RF), Member at Large (2019)

__P__

Elizabeth Dowhower(BD), Member at Large (2017)

__P__

Roxanne Usher (RU), Middle School Teacher Rep. (2016)

__P__

Linda Mayer (LM), Elementary Teacher Rep (2017)

__AB__

Jim Brown (JB), Superintendent College School District

__AB__

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Mark Palmerston (MP), Executive Director

__P__

3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** for February 21, 2017

- MSH motioned to approve, HF requested for 9c to be tabled to the next meeting. HF 2nd the motion, no discussion. Motion passed 5-0 0

CLOSED SESSION (Time Sensitive 5:30-6pm)

4) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION--Executive Director

OPEN SESSION 6:01 PM

5) Report out from Closed Session

Board discussed the timeline for the evaluation of the Executive Director

6) **Public Comment**

- Jessica Yacob- 7th Grade Science Curriculum pertaining to sexual education. Accountability of teachers. Parent handed a letter she read at public comment.

7) **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Minutes for Meeting December 13, 2016

- BD moved approve, RU 2nd, 5-0 1 MSH abstained

b. Approval of Minutes for Meeting January 6, 2017

- RF moved to approve, RU 2nd 3-0, 3 abstained

c. Approval of Minutes for Meeting January 28, 2017

- BD moved, MSH 2nd, 6-0 0

d. Approval of Minutes for Meeting February 11, 2017

- MSH moved to approve, RF 2nd, 5-0, 1 RU abstained

8) **Standing Reports**

e. Teacher's Report- see in Agenda Packet

f. Foundation Report- no report

g. Treasurer's Report- see Agenda Packet. HF is concerned about the lunch program.

h. Director's Report- MR asked about the Valley PLC Admin meeting. MP gave information about the PLC for Admins. The valley administrators visited a total of 4 valley schools.

Informational/Discussion

Public Comment of Grade Level Configuration

- Will Hawkins- Talked about parent signatures for a self-contained classroom and how the school has gone down. Has had 4 children at SYVCS. Pulled his 7th grade son out of SYVCS. Want the SYVCS Board to take a look at the learning and social piece that is currently happening. Why are we wasting money on programs that are losing money. Son is challenged at another school and wants to stay at a school where he is challenged and not with friends.
- Kim Merz- 4th grade daughter. Change is needed not only for 5th graders but also for 6th-8th graders.
- Coleen Fitzgerald- 4th grade daughter. Fifth grade is for growth. Does not see advantage for 10 year olds to be in a rotation schedule.

- Gina Georgas- 1st and 4th grade children. 6-8 grades will get more value from the middle school teachers, they are spread so thin with their current schedule. There are a lot of programs which have been diluted, programs which have drawn families to SYVCS.
 - Kelly Scott- 6th grade son. Not suggesting a change. Concerned about receiving an anonymous email. Happy to see MP has set up a chance for open dialogue on Feb 28th. Please to see that her son raised to the rigor of middle school. 5th graders are not pressured and learn organizational skills to prepare them for middle and high school. Urged the Board the full picture of data. Asked the Board what are our academic concerns. RF asked Kelly about her time on the Board and her feelings on the decision of putting 5th into a rotation. More discussion on Feb. 28.
 - Terri Humphreys- 2nd grade daughter and possible K child for next year. In favor of a 5th grade classroom. Worried about the academics and feel SYVCS is lacking. As a charter school, we should be better.
 - Denicia Gills- As a parent, children have done well with the current middle school configuration, however, As a teacher, 5th grade classroom is more ideal. 5th graders need extra help or spend more time on a specific topic. Prefer to see a 5th grade classroom.
- a. Grade Level Configuration
- MP reviewed the 5 options of grade level configuration. HF- rotate for 3 hours currently. RU asked about the structure of Option 5. HF asked about bringing in a specialist to relieve middle school teachers. MP needs to see a couple more pieces: staff view for one. MSH asked about bringing in an additional assistant in option 2. Meeting on Feb 28, townhall. March 28 will be recommending staffing and grade level configuration. MSH asked how the Feb. 28 will be run. MP, everyone has their input and the ability to have a conversation. RF appreciated all the parents who took time out to come to tonight's meeting. HF commented how rotating with subject teachers is beneficial. MSH commented on looking for a "middle ground" with single subject teachers, more of a mix.
- b. Parent Survey Results
- MP organized responses. Is there anything that jumps out? BD- Middle school complaints. MSH- questioned how the teachers interpret "innovation" and how are they responding to the data? MP- teachers have not meet yet to discuss the data. MSH- would like to see the survey separated by elementary and middle school. Families should be able to respond separately based on student level. It would be a lot easier to see the breakdown of data. MP should see more quantitative data with grade breakdown. MP talked about why families come to SYVCS: small school, small class size. HF- hand sanitizer by the kitchen based on parent comment. BD- asked about improving the SYVCS garden. RU- commented on the use of "academics", another thing that stood out was the level negative comments from parents and appreciated the constructive comments. HF- are there any next steps, something measurable? MP will bring the data back to staff: what is innovative and what is not? Other topics to look at: garden, kitchen, etc. MSH- middle school issues- how are we going to address these issues? Are there any fixes we can immediately address. HF- how will the 5th grade configuration fix middle school? MR- what are the issues of middle school, the big picture is how will all these students be better served. RU- noted the turnover of teachers, especially in math, very difficult to place on entire middle school staff. There is some frustration that the 4 middle teachers are put under pressure and there is only so much to give. RU- Wants everyone to know that the middle school teachers want the best for their students. MR- asked for staff thoughts and how the staff feels about the middle school configuration. HF- would like staff feedback as well. MR- noted there is frustration based on the survey. MSH- do parents feel that there are resolutions when conflicts occur.
- c. Board Survey Results

- Tabled to a future meeting.

9) **Action Items**

- a. Acceptance of School Accountability Report Card 2015-2016 published in 2016-2017
- MP discussed the timeline. MR- questioned about the K-5 LA curriculum: 17 years old. Teacher created material to bridge to common core. MP- asked the Board to look at school suspension rate.
 - MSH moved to accept the report with changes, RF 2nd, motion carried 6-0 0

- b. Review and Approval of 2017-2018 Academic Calendar
 - MSH moved to approve, BD 2nd, motion carried 6-0 0
- c. Approval of 2nd Interim Budget Report for fiscal year 2016-2017
 - HF motioned to approve, RF 2nd, discussion- MSH would like to keep an eye on the lunch program. Motion carried 6-0 0
- d. Review and Approval of Support Staff Pay Scale
 - MSH moved to table, RU 2nd, motion carried 6-0 0

10) **Board Advanced Agenda**

11) Public Comment on Closed Session Item

- no comment

CLOSED SESSION 8:56 PM

12) CERTIFICATED TEACHER NEGOTIATIONS

13) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION--Executive Director

OPEN SESSION 9:55 PM

14) Report out from Closed Session

- Board discussed Teacher Negotiations and to move forward.
- Board and Executive Director mutually agreed to extend evaluation process with an update to the Executive Director on March 28th and completed no later than May 1st.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at ____9:56__PM