

April 2020 Board Meeting Minutes April 15th 2020 (virtual meeting via Webex)

Attendance: Nels H., Nicki P., Sade R, Laura S., Fara H., Chris B.

Community members: Sarah Anderson, Susan Hathaway, Amanda McAdoo

Board members absent: Rebecca F., Scott K., Dave R.

Nels Hesseldahl calls board meeting to order at 6:13 pm

Consent Agenda

Nels motioned to approve consent agenda which includes minutes from the March Board meeting, Academic and Fundraising committee updates (documented in “**Consent Agenda 2020.4.15**”); Fara and Sade seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Fieldwork Coordinator Update

Sarah gave a check-in about place based education right now at the school. Fieldwork has all been cancelled for the spring. Most unfortunate things that had been cancelled to think about if we can capture experiences – Kinders didn’t get to raise chicks with 4-H in classroom – can they do next year in 1st grade? – 1st and 2nd grade didn’t finish the year out with their Mirabella buddies; 3rd grade did not get to participate in the archeology roadshow. The PSU professor that started it is retiring so might not happen again next year. 3rd grade had a trip scheduled to grand ronde cultural center and would have been the first time we had gone there; funded through the grant from the Grey family foundation. They have agreed to roll over funds to next year for anything that didn’t get completed this year. 4th and 5th grade was going to go look at the Dalles/Celilo Falls area. 6th graders will not be going to outdoor school - there is some talk among the funders to see if they can go next year if there are funds for that. Is the room in the school year for them to do an extra trip next year? Don’t know. 7th 8th grade trip to Seattle cancelled. Should they do it next year instead of outward bound or have the kids/parents vote?

What are they doing to keep place-based education in some form? Now its hyper local – in the house, the backyard, in the neighborhood. Most have kept the spring place-based unit or tweaked it and doing content based on that unit in some way. For example, in Kinder, Kimberly has been looking at trees and water. Sarah is facilitating a meeting once a week with middle school and Santigie – help them with extra support in terms of materials and resources. Trying to maintain partnership connections and thinking about next year. Maintaining the grants that we have. 2nd year about to start in terms of funding. Currently reworking the budget for next year. Working with leadership team.

Financial Report

Financial board reporting is behind one month due to the retirement of Bruce and Nicki taking on preparation of the board report. The intent is to catch up by next month’s meeting and have February and March Board report for presentation.

Nicki went line by line through January board report and discussed changes to the projections due to the school facility closure and move to virtual learning. Biggest changes were loss of fundraising income due to cancelling of the auction and changes to income and expenses related to fieldwork overnight trips getting cancelled. Overall, the school remains in a favorable position primarily due to an increase in school funding than what was budgeted.

Nicki makes a motion to approve the January Board report. Sade seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Director Update

From ODE: 5 things to do to continue to get funding

We have to do distance learning, and have to continue to pay all of our employees but can assign people to do different work.. Amanda's hours have increased a lot. The other requirements don't really affect us. The four charter schools under ODE get to attend the superintendent meetings for the state and that has been enlightening to hear from the districts. Goal is 5 hour days of work the teachers but it is likely more. Teacher's challenges are hard to turn it off when students are reaching out to engage with them. Some are taking care of kids at home as well and that has stressful for teachers. Also steep learning curve with technology for some.

Jenny has been working on enrollment. We are almost full for next year. For the most part, all of the families are engaging and attending school. Aides are taking up odd jobs in the facility. Continuing professional development remotely with the grant with PSU professors. Bruce's position is open and getting ready to do some online interviews next week and see if there's anyone great in the candidate pool. Amanda is getting into the financials and business office more. Susan is doing a lot of Google Admin and IT support. Updated the school calendar.

Academic Committee – Sade provided an update. With COVID, survey got delayed. We do want to get the survey. Discussed adding some questions about remote learning to the survey.

Fundraising – They have a meeting tomorrow. Amanda provided an update. Dennis and Amanda met with the landlord and the result of the meeting was that they wouldn't raise the rent more than 3% and they weren't interested in losing us in our location. Now considering option to expand our middle school and look into buildings that are being built near the Spagetti Factory and getting on the ground floor and adding in the preschool option. This is a long term option as the building are not even under construction yet. We are running out of space in this building with the new school counselor and more special needs space requirements. Amanda suggested to the realtors we should pause the search and they will decide with Fundraising committee tomorrow. 5 years ago there was a deadline for 2021 school year PE mandate with a big jump in minutes requirements that we would run into problems with PE space and teachers. TBD if that requirement will hold.

Lunch program due to the grant is up in the air – everything is still moving but they said it was contingent upon economy.

Fara had an idea to get a community virtual meeting event set up. Nels can set it up and put it out on the Facebook and puut it out in the newsletter. Will do a Friday community coffee event. If we want to continue, we can rotate hosts among the Board members.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday May 6th at 6pm.