

WAHTONKA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CHARTER BOARD REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM, Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Wahtonka Campus, 3601 W. 10th Street - The Dalles, Oregon

Held Virtually via Zoom due to Governor's Mandate

Mission Statement

“Our Mission is to create a safe and productive school environment where students accumulate knowledge via hands on learning, acquire the necessary skills to enrich life and fulfill employment aspirations under the mentorship of staff and volunteers, and to further the WCS vision of making the world a better place.”

Board Members Present:

WCS Chair Beth McManus
WCS Vice Chair Sara Viemeister
WCS Director Aaron Bowman
WCS Director Robert Friel
WCS Director Carrie Pipinich
WCS Director Josephine Colburn

Board Members Absent:

Staff & Guests Present:

Stacey Shaw
Beth Wentz
Anne Bourinskie
Jocelyn Paris
Kieran Connelly
Sean O’Connor

1. Call Meeting to Order- 6:03 pm

Presenter: Bethany McManus, Chair

Meeting called to order @ 5:55 pm

2. Public Comment about Non-Agenda Items

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the Charter Board Meeting Minutes from March 10th, 2020- Director Sara Viemeister moved to approve the minutes as written and Director Aaron Bowan seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business Discussion

5. New Business Discussion / Action:

Presenter: Stacey Shaw, Executive Director

a) Grants & ODE update

1) CTE Revitalization grant- the money is still available, \$125,000 per year. Stacey Shaw is moving the current CTE teacher's salary to the grant. This helps protect the general fund.

2) SIA application process

a) Review of grant application and approval- The application is ready to submit, but it is unclear whether there will be funding at this point. Director Sara Viemeister moved to approve the submission of the application and Director Aaron Bowan seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

3) 21st Century grant, ODE implementation grant, High School Success grant- 21st Century is in place and we are going to be having meetings, developing curriculum and designing the summer program. We will be carrying over the funds that remain for this year to next year. Implementation grant is still in place and claims are now being processed. High School Success grant is in place for 5 years and pays for staff salary.

b) 1) Fiscal update: Budget meeting dates

It feels as if we are in a stable position to move forward. Enrollment is frozen temporarily, more guidance is coming from ODE.

The budget committee will meet to start drafting the budget to present at the May board meeting.

2) Title 1-A

Our part-time instructor will be made full-time using these funds. She will provide ELA and Math instruction.

3) Staffing and salary update

Stacey Shaw is not hiring more staff at this point. She was wanting to hire more staff, but she needs to make sure our current staff have what they need to do their job well. In this budget she strongly recommends freezing current salaries due to the funding uncertainty with the state. Protecting the current WCS is her top priority. Wage adjustments can be made in the future if funding becomes more stable.

c) Building discussion- Most WCS school equipment was removed from the building in order to make sure our students have access to the needed materials during the closure.

d) WCS name change- The students and staff voted until there was a clear winner. River Bend Community School was the name that received the most votes. The board discussed the change and agreed that waiting until the beginning of the new school year was the best time to adapt the change.

e) Online/Distance Learning-

Oregon mandated. Chromebooks were sent home with the students on March 12th and staff checked with all students to ensure they have internet access. Our students were not surprised by the pandemic because we had been using it as a teaching tool in math and other classes. WCS staff had been discussing how to pivot to online education. Story Gorge has helped us move to online as they work with other districts that are doing the same. WCS is in a good position to move to online education. All districts are cognisant that we need to continue to serve IEP's and make accommodations as needed. CGCC may have hotspots available. We are waiting for graduation requirements from ODE.

Staff input - Kieran Connolly- All students that we have been able to reach are doing well in ELA and PE. Looking at possibilities of holding online class times for journalism. Annie Bourinskie- is actively engaging the students and trying to see what balance of independent and class time works best for them. She is planning a fun Biology class. Story Gorge is instructing our instructors on how to do online classes.

f) Non-agenda discussion items

Director Josephine wishes to resign from the board. Director Aaron Bowman moved that we accept the resignation and Director Sara Viemeister seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. Josephine would like to serve Wahtonka students in new ways.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

Bethany McManus, Chair

Beth Wentz, Recorder