



Wasatch Charter School  
2 May 2017  
Governing Board Meeting  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
1458 East Murray-Holladay Road, Holladay, UT 84117

Presiding: Kim Haleck, Vice President

Time: 11:06 am

1. Roll call

Trustees present: Kim Haleck, Vice President  
Ary Faraji, Secretary  
Joe Welch, Treasurer  
Megan Zurkan  
Charlie Hastings  
Lauren Shurman  
Lisa Cannella  
Sherry Jones  
Kevin Emerson

Trustees excused:

Others present: Emily Merchant, Executive Director  
Prairie Adams, Pedagogical Director  
Kara Salisbury, Administrative Director  
Tyler Jensen, Business Manager (Red Apple Financial)  
Andy Rohrwasser, Board Member-elect  
Sean McKelvie, Teaching Staff Representative  
Jennifer Fedewa, Wasatch Family Foundation Director  
Arthur Morris, Teacher  
Raven Garland, Teacher  
Caroline Hopewell, Teacher  
Brady Ashdown, Public  
Annie Florence, Public  
Lisa McBride, Public

2. Reporting of Conflicts of Interest: No conflicts of interest were reported.
  
3. Trustee Faraji made a motion to move the agenda item regarding electing a new Board president to be next on the agenda. Trustee Faraji seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Director Merchant asked Trustee Faraji to clarify why that would be important now as there was consensus at the last Board meeting to make that election at the annual retreat. Trustee Faraji expressed his feeling that a Board president is needed, especially given the nature of the items on the agenda for this meeting. Trustee Faraji nominated Trustee Welch as the Board president. Trustee Welch stated that he would be willing to accept that position if voted in. Trustee Shurman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.
  
4. Approval of 15 March 2017 Electronic Board Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hastings made a motion to approve the minutes; Trustee Faraji seconded the motion; the motion carried with a vote in the affirmative, with Trustee Shurman and Trustee Emerson abstaining.
  
5. Approval of 4 April 2017 Board Meeting Minutes: Trustee Faraji stated that the minutes on our websites are live documents, and that a final copy should be signed. Trustee Hastings made a motion to approve the minutes; Trustee Shurman seconded the motion; the motion carried with a vote in the affirmative, with Trustee Emerson abstaining.
  
6. Executive Director Report (Emily Merchant)
  - a. Director Merchant stated that the Board had previously discussed the possibility of bonding for our school building next year; she said that she would like to invite David Robertson and Jeff Biesinger to attend the June Board meeting to make a presentation on that topic.
  - b. Director Merchant stated that she has reached out to the director of the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools to ask if their group would be available to come do a Board training at the Board retreat. She stated that Mary Echelin, a long-time Waldorf teacher and administrator, is also willing to come do some training with the Board at the retreat.
  - c. Staffing Report/Personnel Update
    - i. Option for Closed Session to discuss the the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual: Director Merchant stated that items in the staffing report that she had prepared will discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Trustee Faraji made a motion to move into a closed session, Trustee Cannella seconded the motion, and the meeting went into closed session.
    - ii. Option for Closed Session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation

- d. The open Board meeting resumed, with a roll call being taken again. Attendance was the same as previous.
  - e. Update on Gradalis Training and Costs: Director Merchant distributed a copy of the update that she had written, for members to review.
7. Business Manager Report (Tyler Jensen): Mr. Jensen discussed the March budget report; it was emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. He stated that the budget remains right on track for the year, and we are still on target to hit 5% to 6% cash in reserve.
8. Board Discussion and Votes
- a. Vote on Budget for Next Fiscal Year: Mr. Jensen suggested moving this discussion and vote to either the Board retreat or the June Board meeting, for the sake of time in this meeting as well as because the closer it is to the end of the current fiscal year, the more full the information will be that the members can look at. It was agreed that this will be completed either at the retreat or at the June meeting.
  - b. Maturation and Sex Education Program Approval: Trustee Jones summarized the conclusions of the committee that met to put together these programs. Trustee Shurman made a motion to approve the program as outlined, Trustee Emerson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
  - c. Wellness Policy: Trustee Shurman stated that the policy should be taken back to the Wellness Committee for review; Director Merchant said that she will communicate this to that committee, and then it will be reviewed by the Board at the June Board meeting.
  - d. Board Vacancy: To be discussed at the Board Retreat.
  - e. Policy Development Process: To be discussed at the June Board meeting.
  - f. Presentation and Posting of Approved Board Minutes: To be discussed at the June Board meeting.
  - g. Engagement Survey for Staff and Teachers: Trustee Welch stated that he would like to develop a tool to complete an end-of-year survey with the staff, to be distributed as soon as possible. Caroline Hopewell stated that her husband works with education surveys professionally, and has expressed willingness to help with something like this. Trustee Rohrwasser suggested that when Trustee Welch attends the staff meeting on Friday, May 5, he discuss a survey with the staff and encourage full participation. Arthur Morris stated that it appears that some staff members have felt they had a platform to go to the Board with concerns, and others have not; and some staff members have perhaps been approached by members of the Board, and others have not. He stressed the importance of all staff members having an opportunity to have their voices heard if that is something that is happening.
  - h. Assessment of Executive Director and Others: To be discussed at the June Board meeting.
  - i. Contact Information for Board Members and Staff: To be discussed at the June Board meeting.
9. Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes per individual):

- a. Brady Ashdown asked if there is currently an opening on the Board. Trustee Faraji stated that the Board's bylaws stipulate that the Board must have five to nine trustees; we currently do not have an opening, and if a member resigns in the next few months, there will be an opening that can be filled but does not have to be.
- b. Annie Florence asked if Gradalis training is required for teachers in our school. Director Merchant stated that our requirement is that all of our teachers become Waldorf certified, but they can do that through any official Waldorf training program, it does not have to be through Gradalis.
- c. Brady Ashdown commented that there have been some issues with communication gaps between the charter school and preschool
- d. Annie Florence stated that there are things that are legally required to be posted on the school's website that are not on our website, and asked who she could contact about that. Trustee Faraji responded that she can be in touch with administration to address that question.
- e. Arthur Morris raised the issue of what is needed for teachers to be competent to teach in a public Waldorf school, with the suggestion that this be part of ongoing discussions.

10. Items for June Board Meeting:

- a. Presentation by David Robertson and Jeff Biesinger regarding the process for bonding for our school.
- b. Assessment of Executive Director and Others
- c. Presentation and Posting of Approved Board Minutes
- d. Policy Development Process

11. Adjournment: Trustee Shurman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Zurkan seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.