Valley Inquiry Charter School

Special Meeting Minutes

*January 23th, 2022 |Virtual Meeting, 6:30pm*

**Board Members Instructors/Staff/Other:**

Board President & Chair Ken Slough Mrs. Sandra Acosta- School Staff

Vice Chair BJ Foster Mrs. Mary Campos- School Staff

Treasurer James Carter Mrs. Taylor Tuepker- School Staff

Secretary Kyle McSmith Mrs. Melissa Colby- School Staff

At-Large Matthew Reynolds Mrs. Alyssa Miller- School Staff

At-Large Terry Rohse *Guest:* David Robertson &

At-Large Cammi Menager Blake- Architect

At-Large Vacant

At-Large Vacant

Non-Voting Member Craig Harlow, Principal



Meeting Agenda Item Minutes

**6:32pm Call to Order/Introductions-**

- Ken called to order and started the meeting. He listed out the expectations of the meeting. He said we will start with the guests. Then we will hear from the teachers. Then we will go into an executive session to discuss the options for the MYP program. Then, as a board, vote on whether to move forward with the MYP expansion or not.

**6:34pm VICS MYP Expansion Project Decision-**

- Craig introduced Blake the Architect and David the Financial Advisor. As well as the staff joining the board meeting. He said the floor is open for questions. Kyle asked Blake about the 2 bids we received for the expansion and to find out what was included in the cost of the bid and what is not. He mentioned this to Blake based on Joel, from S/K District, informing the board about adding in a 5% contingency. Blake said the bids are providing hard costs to the job. Foundation building, restroom building, general construction, etc. He said this does not include the soft cost. This being PGE electric connection costs, permits, cost of modular building, his cost for his service, etc. David then asked about the lower bid cost. This was Andy Medcalf Construction. It was provided at approx. $1.4 million. Blake then let the board know what this bid included. David shared his screen with the board and provided an updated Proforma with this bid cost and other additional expenses and funds from the school and district included. He said this was more accurate based on the additional information Craig shared with him. He said based on these numbers, he said we look good to move forward with this MYP expansion. He said he was hoping to find out a decision tonight, so he can update the bank on the project and loan process. He said it takes a little time to get this loan into effect and to have funds available. Blake said this could be a big concern, as we are getting close to missing the bid timelines. He said with the effects of COVID, getting electronic components and timing this to be installed with PGE for the modular building and restrooms. He recommended us to have a back up plan of what to do with the students coming in if the project is not completed by this fall. David said even with this loan set up time. We could still get the expansion project going. He said this should not affect the timelines. Blake then said Andy Medcalf Construction is excited to get this project going. He said we will need to get moving on this expansion project launch. As it can take some time to schedule the modular buildings to be moved to site and work with PGE to come out to connect the power. David can stay in touch with Blake to help. B.J. then asked about the cost of the portables being moved. Blake said Craig has this information and Craig said the district said approx. $55,000. Ken asked if there were any more questions for Blake and David. No other questions and the guest left the board meeting.

Ken then said we can now discuss this expansion further with the teachers and understand more about how they feel. He said the floor is open for discussion or questions. Kyle mentioned he reviewed the anonymous survey. He asked the teachers what changed from 8 months ago. He mentioned he thought the board was transparent in discussions about the process of the MYP expansion. But he felt we had some miscommunication along the way and wanted to know more about how the teachers felt. They did not provide more feedback. James thanked them for the survey and let them know that the board understands this has not been an easy expansion process for all staff. B.J. asked the teachers if the board decided not to move forward with the middle school expansion. How would we handle the current 6th and 7th graders? Would we just let them know by the end of the year we will no longer have a middle school and they will need to find another school? Or provide a faze out and go for another 2 years to have the 6th grade finish through 8th grade? Mrs. Colby did not think of that option and thought it could be a possibility. Mrs. Miller did not like the idea of teaching for 2 more years and then having to find another place to teach. She said she would have to look for a more long term position and probably wouldn’t stay. Mrs. Taylor did not know if the staff could handle having the lack of space for another 2 years.

**6:56pm Executive Session- Start**

**8:17pm Executive Session- End**

**8:18pm MYP Expansion Project Voting-**

- Ken said after a difficult discussion with the board about the school's future, funds to support the expansion and the feedback we have received from the school staff. The board has decided to not move forward with the MYP expansion project. He said we need to put this to vote. B.J. motioned if the school should move forward with the MYP expansion project based on the information provided to the board. Terry second this motion. Vote: 1 Yes/ 6 No. Mrs. Acosta asked the board in the next meeting to discuss what we are going to be doing moving forward with the current middle school students. Are we going to look to faze the 6th and 7th grade out or just stop the middle school after the year ends. Mrs. Campos agreed. She said we need to know as soon as we can. As she will be sharing the lottery information and putting the welcome packets together for the upcoming students. Giving information to the parents about the school and the expectations of the school. She said they will also need to update the parents of the current 6th and 7th graders. As most registration periods for school transfers and sign ups end by March. B.J. asked Craig if he could put a full plan together for the board to help give us options to what would be the best course of action for this transition back to a EYP school. He said he would like to see the plan about staffing and reorganization of space in the school. Something that shows if we removed the middle school at the end of the year. And what it would look like if we faze the current middle school students out over the next 2 years. B.J. asked if we could see the plan by next week, so the board can review these plans and discuss in the next meeting we have in a couple weeks. Ken asked if the board could meet on February 6th to decide the future of the school. The board agreed.

**8:32pm Meeting Adjourn**

Special Board Meeting: Monday, February 6th, 2022 @ 6:30pm. Held Virtually.