Valley Inquiry Charter School

Special Meeting Minutes

*February 6th, 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 >> Absent 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:* Kassy

At-Large Cammi Menager

At-Large Vacant

At-Large Vacant

Non-Voting Member Craig Harlow, Principal



Meeting Agenda Item Minutes

**6:34pm Call to Order/Introductions-**

- Ken started the meeting. He listed out the expectations of the meeting. He said we will be making the final decision on how we will move forward with the rest of this school year and how we will be handling the current middle schoolers. Then putting a plan in place for the following school year. He mentioned Matthew had something to add before we get started on this decision.

**6:36pm Matthew- Alternative School Location Information-**

- Matthew let the board know he was in conversation with his realestate friend and mentioned this person had another Middle school location option for us to consider. He gave the background of this small High School, which started back in 2013. Since, they have been struggling with students and are looking to close the location. He said it was North of Brooks. He said this address is still considered a Salem address, but would need to find out if this location falls within the Salem/ Keizer School District boundaries. The school is asking for $1.175 million. He said he can send the listing to the board, so we can discuss this further. Terry asked for him to share this with us. After Matthew set this to the board. He described the location and how many classrooms and the size of the property. He said there would be a little work to be done on the school (portables & parking). Terry asked if the school would want the lease to run out. Matthew said he is finding this information out and will let us know.

**6:47pm Plans for Valley Inquiry School- Current Year and Next Year-**

- Ken then asked Craig to let us know what his thoughts and plans were for the school if we fazed the middle school out or just went back to K-5th grade. Craig said he sent the document to the board and mentioned this is how he would interpret the direction of the board for next year. Kyle asked what detail plan he had that would show the different options for the school. Stay as a K-5 school. Faze out the 7th & 8th grade over the next couple of years, or turn the school into a K-6th grade school. Criag said this will need to be discussed and determined with the board’s help. Matthew asked Craig what we would need to move forward with these scenarios and what could hold this up. Would it be because of cost? Would it be due to staff hiring? Then Terry asked who would we hire for the 8th graders, then to have them only stay for one year. He said maybe the 7th grade teacher would be willing to move to 8th grade as we faze the middle school out. Then B.J. thought about having the 6th grade teacher, just move with the students and follow them through 7th and 8th grade, until the faze out is completed. Craig said Mrs. Colby is now teaching 6th and 7th grade stem. Craig said he would ask the current staff and see if they would go with this faze out option and move with the students each year. B.J. asked Mrs. Acosta about students moving out of middle school already. She said 6 have left from the initial meeting about the MYP expansion not moving forward. B.J. asked the group if we kept 7th & 8th grade until they fazed out and what we thought about this option. Terry was uncertain about this faze out option, due to staffing issues and having enough students for that staff member at that grade level. Mrs. Colby jumped in to let the board know she will not be moving to teach 7th and 8th grade for the faze out option. Ken then asked if there were any other questions or discussion on the matter. Mrs. Campos said the surveys said it best and provided the feelings from the staff. Cammi asked if we had an 8th grade curriculum already. Mrs. Colby responded that we really do not have one for the middle school program. Cammi asked about the class size and how it became the size it is now per class. Ken responded that the class size is depending on the board’s decision. Ken said we increased the size so we could receive extra money and to help with costs on the MYP expansion. We can discuss the class sizes at a different meeting.

**7:09pm Executive Session- Start**

**8:05pm Executive Session- End**

**8:06pm Valley Inquiry School- Voting on direction of school (Current and Future Years)-**

- B.J. proposed the motion after this current school year. Valley Inquiry will no longer have the middle school program and will convert back to a K-5th grade I.B. elementary school program. Kyle second this motion. 6 Yes/ 0 No. Unanimous decision.

- Ken asked Craig for a detailed plan put together for how the school will function for the remainder of the year and next year as we make the transition back to K-5th grade. He said we need to know who is interested in teaching each grade level, who is staying, what positions need to be hired. Where the classrooms will be in the school. What are the expectations of the school, staff and students moving forward. Craig said he will get something put together and have it available by the next board meeting.

- B.J. asked about the modular building agreement for the bathrooms and if we move forward with this, can we find out if the foundation could be added to the project? Can we also find out from the district if we are still getting the septic replacement or was this set up with the full expansion? Craig said he will ask Joel from S/K district, but he believes it is all tied together. He said it has to do with electric set up and other pieces for the new septic.

- Craig asked about a message to be sent out to the parents. About the direction of the school. Ken said yes, we will need to inform the parents of the decision as soon as we can. Mrs. Mary, Mrs. Sandra and Mrs. Taylor asked if the board could provide the message and mentioned it would be important if this came from the board. Ken said we will certainly get a message put together and provide this to Craig, so we can inform all the parents. B.J. said he can write up the message and have the board review this, before we send this over to Craig and pass this message onto the parents.

**8:26pm Meeting Adjourn**

Monthly Board Meeting: Monday, February 13th, 2022 @ 6:30pm. Held at Valley Inquiry School.