Valley Inquiry Charter School

May Meeting Minutes

*May 9, 2022 | Online Tele-Meeting, 6:30pm*

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

Board President & Chair Terry Rohse N/A

Vice Chair BJ Foster

Treasurer James Carter

Secretary Carol Topaz >>>> Absent

At-Large Matthew Reynolds

At-Large Kyle McSmith

At-Large Ken Slough

At-Large Vacant

At-Large Vacant

Non-Voting Member Jesse Payne, Principal

Meeting Agenda Item Minutes

**6:30pm Call to Order/Introductions-**

**6:31pm Review and adopt April 25th, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes-**

-April 25th Meeting Minutes- Terry brought up April Special Board Meeting Minutes. Kyle motioned to accept the minutes as written. Ken second this motion. Vote unanimous: 4 yes/ 1 Abstain/ 0 No.

**6:32pm I.B. Report-**

-Jesse said Mrs. Taylor was not available today. He said he has the report and mentioned 4th Grade exhibition is next Thursday. If any of the board would like to attend. He said to email him, so he can let the staff know.

**6:33pm Principal Report- Part 1**

-Jesse said a new principal has been selected & accepted. He said he has 30 years of experience. He said the public announcement will be made next week.

**6:35pm Executive Session- Start**

**6:38pm Executive Session- End**

**6:39pm Financial Report-**

-James provided the budget document in the meeting and explained nothing out of the normal has changed in the budget for this month. He said we did have the $19,000 middle school expansion charge come through this month. He then mentioned we did get the additional funds of $83,000 from the district, which has brought our total up to $479,000. He did mention the only difference was the nutrition reimbursement of roughly $6000.00. James said everything is looking good. Matthew asked how much we have in reserve from the district? Jesse said we have $250,000 and said we have this as a max amount. Anything over this max will just come straight to the budget.

**6:42pm Principal Report- Part 2**

-Jesse mentioned he has spoken with the teaching staff about the location of LRC for next year and how they would handle the kids eating from there classroom. He said they all voted and agreed to move LRC to the staff room, while LRC continues to also use the additional room they have been using. This would keep the kids using the multi-purpose room for eating, assemblies, etc. Then the staff will use the library for eating and chatting with other teachers. Jesse said this way everything can stay the same. He said the new custodian has been hired and started Monday. He said he is already seeing improvements on the cleanliness of the school. Jesse said we will need to hire 3 new staff for next year. He said this would be: LRC teacher, 6th& 7th grade humanity teacher and 6th& 7th grade stem teacher.

**6:49pm Board Member Position Change and/or Nominations -**

-Terry, VICS chair, brought up the positions within the board and mentioned we need to discuss, nominate, and vote for new or existing candidates to take on new positions of the board or keep their current position. Terry made the statement about asking about the chair position change. B.J. then nominated Ken to be chair of the board. James second. Vote: 5 Yes/ 0 No. Unanimous. Ken will now become the chair of the board for VICS starting the next school year. Terry then asked the board about Kyle officially taking over as Secretary, due to the current Secretary not being present at the board meetings. The board vote: 5 Yes/ 0 No, unanimous. Terry asked the board about removing Carol from the board, due to failure to routinely attend board meetings. The board came to an agreement, but no motion was set to officially remove Carol. Terry then asked the board about B.J. and keeping him in his current position as Vice Chair. B.J. was okay with staying in this position. The board vote: 5 Yes/ 0 No. B.J. then asked the board about James and keeping him in his current position as Treasurer. James said he is okay with this and said he was willing to continue this for one more year. During this time, teaching someone to learn this position.

**6:53pm MYP Expansion-**

-B.J. bought up the expansion for the middle school and asked the board that we discuss what the bare minimum would be to get the expansion started affordably and to continue to move forward with the expansion. Jesse said this option is off the table. He said once the board closed the bidding process. This expansion option for building or construction of any kind has been closed. He said even if the board tried to re-open the bidding process. It would be almost impossible to have it completed for next fall. Matthew then brought in Mike Mosar. He is a commercial real-estate broker. He said he wants to help and was in search of a location that we could lease and would honor the Salem/ Keizer district process for leasing owned buildings. He said his thoughts would be to find a location to house all grades, K-8th. B.J. then asked if he meant moving VICS to another location in Salem. Mike said Yes. Mike then asked about having VICS at multiple locations (one for EYP and one for MYP). He thought this would be a large expense for VICS to have more staff and administrators and kitchen equipment in two locations. Jesse said the food program next year will be ran through Sodexo, which is organized through the district, so all equipment and staff for this would be covered. Jesse said for the staff we would make this work and hire, as needed, to fill the positions. Jesse mentioned he knows the facility manager for the district and asked Mike if this helps with having options for using a multiple location school. He said this could make it easier for that process. Mike then said he knows of a location, owned privately. He said the location could house K-8th grade and is currently on a year-to-year lease with the ownership. He said it would be approx. $30,000 a month lease. He said there is some stipulation on being a tenant. Jesse said most of these stipulations are covered under the district (ie: landscaping, janitor, security, technology/ internet). Matthew asked about a higher percentage to the district for the ADMW and move it up, so we can handle the lease. Jesse thinks this could work. He then asked Mike how to bring this up to the “owners” and if the district will be okay with this lease option for the school. He said he can start the process with the owner and Terry (district realtor) to make sure it is going in the right direction. He said he will meet with Terry about this option. Matthew asked Mike to send him the meeting time and asked to be in these meetings. Mike then said he would want the board to see the building and locations first. He said it is on 1850 45th Avenue NE, Salem. He said it was once the Blanchet School. James asked about the rooms, staff room, library, cafeteria. Mike said there are 11 rooms in total, 8 of them are used as classrooms. Mike said he can send the board the floor plans and pictures, so we can get a good look at the location and see if this is something to move forward on. He said he would be in touch with Matthew and continue to keep looking for other locations. He did mention another location, off Portland Road (old bingo hall) and said it was owned by the tribe. Jesse then asked how to bring these locations up to the district. Mike said he could work his side of the discussion. Jesse said he will just ask the right district people and see if this is even a possibility and if these locations do not work. He said he will ask if there are other locations that are available, like these current ones. B.J. concern was about taking on a $30,000 a month lease and not knowing how the economy is going to be in the next few years and if this would affect the ADMW to not allow us to keep up on the lease payments. Jesse said he will do some digging on the ADMW numbers during the years of the last recession to see what the fluctuation looks like. He said he would let us know. Matthew asked about this private owned location by Blanchet. James said they do own the building and are leasing it out due to financial reasons. Matthew said he would be worried that Blanchet would ask us to move from the location, if they expand and can financially support the extra space needed. Terry, Matthew, Kyle, and James agree this location option is a good idea and could give VICS options for transportation for students. As well as being more accessible to the community for bringing new students to the school. Ken said he knows the location is rough and would need a lot of work but likes the idea of the location off Portland Road. He knows someone from the tribe, and this could be a good start.

**7:46pm Meeting Adjourn-**

June Board Meeting: Monday, June 6th, 2022 @ 6:30pm. Held at VICS.