

Valley Inquiry Charter School

April Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026 | Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Board Members

Board President & Chair	Cammi Carriere
Vice Chair	Terry Rohse
Treasurer	Stephen Staten
Secretary	BJ Foster
At-Large	Ed Austin
At-Large	Carol Kruse
At-Large	Garrick Williams
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
Non-Voting Member	Lacey McNay

Meeting Agenda Minutes

6:36pm Call to Order

Cammi called the meeting to order. Roll call:

- Present: Cammi, Terry, BJ, Ed, Garrick, Lacey
- Absent: Steve, Carol

Approving meeting minutes

- 3/9/26 Motion by Garrick, second by Ed. Vote: 4 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain. Motion passes.

6:37pm IB/Staff Report

MYP

Drew Schmitt: Not too much has changed from last time. Students have asked why we cannot stay at Labish, which we cannot do but is a testament to our ability to create a home away from home until we're able to get into VICS again. Getting ready to move back to VICS in the next few weeks. Spring testing coming up in May. Making sure teachers have the tools they need to succeed.

Cammi: Anything special happening with MYP IB?

Drew: In candidacy right now, working towards applying for authorization. Lots of policies being developed for handbook, lots of logistics. Working on ensuring teaching schedule is aligned with IB, about 90% of the way there but some shifts will need to take place to handle additional students. Planning on working creating a design and science lab at VICS to make them a strength of our program next year.

Michael King: 6-7 grades asking a lot of good “why” questions in history, and showing good memory of things discussed in the fall. Seeing good growth in English skills, some students on IEPs have jumped two grades. Doing practice questions to get students ready for the kinds of testing they're going to face.

Lacey: I will be doing observations in middle years classrooms. 8th grade has been working on a huge genetics and adaptation project for science, with a lot of in-depth learning. Awesome to see students growing in their scientific inquiry. We'll fold PYP update into principal update as Ms. Karr is not here right now.

6:45pm

Principal/Assist. Principal Report

Now have full KG class for 2026-2027 school year. Hosted an info night last week for current 5th grade families. Acceptance letters have gone out and due back April 24. We will be sending out an MYP postcard in the next week or so. No lottery this year, but our normal wait list protocols.

Mrs. Fuller: Combining May STEAM challenge: Recyclable Monsters. Art/engineering project to create monsters out of recyclable materials. Spring music concert K-8 coming up May 20 at 6pm at Dayspring Fellowship Church. Same time as the PTC Auction.

Lacey: Hosted at a church building but event has no affiliation with the church.

PYP Weekly clubs: Student council, year book choir, GRASSP, ASL Club, LOSAF/TAG.

Mrs. Fuller: 4/21 PTC meeting 6pm at VICS or Zoom. 4/29 First day of MYP on campus, 5th grade outdoor school parent info meeting 5-6pm, 5th grade Exhibition 6:00-7:30pm. 5/1 Teacher inservice day, no school. 5/11 VICS Governing Board Meeting @ 6:30pm virtual. 5/12-5/15: 5th grade outdoor school at Opal Creek. 5/20 Music concert/PTC auction 6pm. 5/25 Memorial Day, no school.

Lacey:

Staffing Updates

- IA: Ysobel Gonzalez-Umagat (formerly worked with us via Champions)
- Long-term sub for the Reading Intervention role: Tayen Blake

PYP/LOSAP: Ms. Ogilvie stepping into TAG Coordinator role. Jayme Peppler working with students in TAG/LOSAP for remainder of this year and next year.

Jayme Peppler transitioning to 1st grade

Recent GRASSP Soccer team win.

Holi Dance kicked off spring break 3/20.

2nd/3rd grade went to Corvallis to visit a working dairy. Saw adopted cow, "Honey" while there, and had ice cream at a creamery on OSU campus after. 1st grade went to Gilbert House before spring break. An incoming KG student's parent saw VICS students coming into Gilbert House and was excited.

New Mini-splits in cafeteria and 1st grade where old units were going out. Had cleaning crew do a full clean of our building due to bad flu/cold season to sanitize before remainder of year.

Enrollment

162 PYP, 62 MYP. MYP Enrollment Plan for 26-27: Currently have 1 section of 7 eighth graders, 1 section of 17 seventh graders, and 2 sections of 6th graders, totaling 37 sixth graders. Plan for next year: 6th: 40 (2 sections); 7th 40 (2 sections); 8th:20 (1 section). Will want to be able to sustain a 6 section model next year, but not exceeding our cap of 265. This would bring us to 260 for next year, and we have the waitlist to support these numbers. Opens possibilities for us with increased numbers.

Cammi: Do we know all 6th graders are returning?

Lacey: We can poll our families for planning purposes. Ms. Purkey has been very adept at communicating with families. We have a few that might be moving, but we can build letters of intent.

Cammi: Do we have a waitlist?

Lacey: Yes.

Garrick: "Sections." What is that defined as?

Lacey: Example, we would have 5 sections of PE ready to go to fit all of those students. We have had students stay in their cohort for all their classes in most cases, with a few 7/8 combined. With the addition of more class sections, we can have some intermixing of the cohorts so they don't feel like elementary students with always the same classmates. Also allows for more leveling based on their ability levels. Trying to give as much of a middle school experience as possible, but with IB constraints cannot offer just any random elective, as it has to align with design or art.

Drew: Valley is a small school, and we want to lean into that, but there are things from the traditional middle school experience we want to borrow. If we have

more total students, we can do mixed grade levels of PE, or with two sections of sixth grade math, we can swap students into one or the other to fit schedules.

Garrick: Was thinking traditional middle school, the ability to have multiple offerings of a class to align with schedules and might intermix with different students in each.

Drew: Had to play with what makes sense financially for teaching staff to accommodate this.

7:08pm

Treasurer's update

Cammi: Steve not able to be here to give treasurer update, but we can look through the document he sent.

Lacey: Green on all compliance items except for Repair and Replacement Fund. Had a meeting to get pointed to the right person, not out of compliance yet, starting the conversation. Any account we have has to have DACA with it so there's a 3rd party as part of our bond. Working with Chris to see if we can bring those fees down. Recent requisition to Metcalf for \$117k which was filed today, will be paid from bond.

Shout out to Cheetah Care leader, has been getting balances resolved and working with families to clear up accounts. Other than cleaning expense, bulk majority is to contractors with construction, and can have these reimbursed from our bond. Had a board training with Strativation.

Have been meeting with Drew and Katherine to work on budget drafting process. Published ADMw for next school year has gone up from \$11,124 to \$11,969. Once we are at 95% after cutting off services, that brings us close to \$3M which is substantially more than we have been working with, and would allow some extra staffing for increased students. We've been reviewing expenses versus budget as well.

This year, have had two full-time office managers, and want to add a 0.2 to come in during lunch/recess for relief. Student Support IAs come from our SIA grant funding. May be able to move additional ones into this in next grant application, as we will have more students. Would like to move from three full-time IA roles to adding a 0.5 student support MYP, and a MYP student success interventionist. Likely cannot afford school counselor. Maintain literacy reading intervention position in PYP. Keeping same admin for principal/VP. Having student support coordinator/PYP IB/MYP dance. Full time teachers for K-5, 0.5 for library. MYP math, ELA, Social Studies, Science & 7/8 community project, PYP music/MYP choir/Orchestra/K-2 Spanish, PYP PE/Health & 6th intro to IB. Want to increase electives from 2x a week to 3x a week. Spanish remains 0.6. Had full-time library/art, want to split to 0.5 MYP Art. MYP PE & Health & Leadership full time, half time MYP Tech Coord & Design.

Big question of how to support students who struggle with academics but are not on an IEP. Literacy Resource Center teacher in library could help fit this need, would serve both PYP and MPY. This is where our heads are at for what we think we need to be sustainable next year. Will come with more firm numbers on what our expenditures have been and what is needed for next year.

BJ: Is this just preliminary work or has Steve been involved?

Lacey: This has been just preliminary work, planning on getting together with Steve before next meeting.

Cammi: About what increase to FTE would this be?

Lacey: I will look that up and get you a number.

7:24pm Construction Updates

Cammi: Some change orders for roofing, flooring, concrete patch and ramp extension have firm numbers now. There had been an error in the slope of the ramp. HVAC included. Flooring was ~\$74k, ramp and railings \$9,886. Concrete was \$4,993. PGE came out this last weekend, had to pay extra for weekend work, haven't gotten final invoice. Had a few hiccups when powering everything up, working out details. Nothing major to be concerned about. Looking at final inspection at the end of April unless PGE issue causes delay, subcontracted electrician working with PGE.

Thank you for survey responses on paint colors. Going to paint a swatch, but the green/off white was the most popular color. Students took survey as well. Grey was second, Red was third, and matching existing colors was lowest on the ranking.

Lacey: Got numbers for staffing plan, increase is 2.5 FTE increase with additional 1.0 for MYP support but hopefully that would be funded by grants. Will have additional tech costs to keep in mind.

7:30pm Public Comment

Rebekah Benham: Any concern that we won't be able to start 4/29?

Cammi: Will let you know as soon as I know. At end of today they said they're waiting for a part and PGE has to be rescheduled. Asked if they could come 4/18, they didn't say no but no response yet. If for some reason it is delayed, it shouldn't be a lengthy delay, maybe a week at most.

Lacey: We have to be out of Labish by 4/24, and SKPS has been very kind and generous in helping us through these delays. Working on free and reduced lunch program, getting quotes on who we will go with, and whether Sodexo would be willing to partner with us.

7:33pm Summer facility / maintenance projects

Cammi: One portable will need to be an office. Originally had 3 portables and office would stay in main building. When we revamped project for Metcalf bid, in the drawings an office wasn't accommodated. We have 5 portables ready for classroom space, but likely not feasible to have MYP office in PYP building. With that comes updating one side of a portable to be an office. Discussed with Lacey and Mrs. Fuller, and they felt the same way. That also means bidding out for another project this summer so long as prices are competitive. Do we want to pursue this with ACCO to draw this up, or table it and use space as-is for a while?

Lacey: Currently, there's only the front door that faces the middle school. Want a single point of entry for middle school. One thing we could have is a door added to the front of the office space so there's a front office that is open without fencing.

Terry: Office is a great idea. Should have drawings drawn up, and having a door added makes sense. Don't want MYP kids wandering into PYP office. Have wanted to separate the two areas.

Lacey: Having been at Labish, the things that come through a middle school office are very different from what happens in the PYP office.

Cammi: Would like Blake to draw two options that can go to bid, one with having that added door to the side of the portable or to the front on the parking lot side, and a drawing without the extra door so we can compare numbers. With the doorway would come an extra landing, extra ramp, and concrete is expensive. Also need a sick room for ill children. All that's in there currently is a bathroom and open space. Would bring back drawings from Blake to present to the board.

Terry: Would it make sense to just have a stairway, and if someone needs a ramp, we can meet them inside and run them up the ramp?

Cammi: May be an option. There will be a gate at the fence.

Lacey: We have a student that uses a wheelchair sometimes, and they commented about how much better the lifts look for them.

Cammi: Other project is something with the back field, which has taken a bit of a beating this past year, but isn't in scope for Andy Metcalf to fix current field. If we want to offer soccer for next year and outside time, will need some work.

Terry: Does it need leveling?

Lacey: Recommendation was turf was best option, with a bit of leveling. Was concerned about lack of irrigation to keep it green.

Cammi: Getting quotes to see what it would cost to get a turf field.

Terry: Maintenance would be easier.

Lacey: No bees nests in the ground would be nice.

Cammi: The other info sent with the Nature Bros quote was for the portable area. Andy Metcalf will do grass up to the portable. There's less than 2 feet between the cement ramps and the portable, and there are 5 ramps. That space is very difficult to keep up. Slated to be grass only currently, as well as all around the portables. Andy Metcalf could do rock or barkdust at a cost. Hoping to get a vote on Andy Metcalf or Nature Bros.

Nature Brothers recommended rock with plants embedded. Work quoted was around \$6k for that portion.

Terry: Rock offers opportunities for vandalism and things to throw at the buildings.

Cammi: If we do bark, needs to be replaced twice a year for upkeep. Or we could stick with grass, but they discouraged that.

Lacey: Can we go with something smaller but not tiny pebbles? Hadn't thought about windows being broken from rocks until you brought it up.

BJ: Can we use rocks large enough that kids cannot lift them?

Lacey: It would be cement and rock up to that to minimize grass that will just die from lack of watering.

Cammi: Plan is for low-watering options, juniper bushes to minimize transit between buildings.

Lacey: Recurring cost of bark is a notable downside. The landscapers are recommending rock. Grass will add maintenance time, as would have to use string trimmer between all buildings.

BJ: Is turf an option for the in-between spaces?

Cammi: Not sure. Is there a minimum width?

Lacey: Some schools with rock have painted rocks to add interest. In chat, Kassy says maybe PTC could help with barkdust.

Cammi: Roofing on portables #3 and 5 need new roofs, with #3 being the more dire need. When capping it, the roofers said they were lucky they weren't falling through. Might be able to get one more year out of #5.

BJ: Should get bid on both versus just one, may be cheaper to do both concurrently.

Cammi: For fencing, were thinking about fence around whole property. Drain field on one side, and septic area off behind portables might be good to block off. Restart fence past tree line? Large amount of fencing.

Lacey: Perhaps a mix of chain and non-chain fencing, with most important part being student safety.

Cammi: Fencing was part of bond money, but roofing is not. Office renovation is not part of initial bond money calculation. If bid numbers come out too high, we can scrub projects.

BJ: I think we need to make a functional office space, don't want to go too nuts with fencing but keep it safe, I'm fine with rocks or barkdust.

Garrick: Like rock, there can be consequences for throwing it. Is cost for vandalism vs. upkeep worthwhile?

BJ: Was it cheaper to go with Nature Bros?

Cammi: Yes, prevailing wage if we go with Andy Metcalf. If we take off field and track renovation, came out under \$10k.

Terry: Motion to go with landscaper, and go with rock or barkdust. BJ seconds. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. Motion passes.

Ed motions to have ACCO draw up plans for an office with two iterations, one with a second entrance and one without. Terry seconds. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. Motion passes.

Cammi: Do I need a vote to get quotes on the roofs?

BJ: No, but will need vote on final expenditure.

Cammi: Will get one versus two, and metal vs. shingle roof.

8:07pm

Board work session/training/future work

Cammi: Work with Strativation has helped start us do mission statement planning and thinking about where we want to go as a board together as we transition into running a K-8 school. Has been good to have that time to get on same page, and learn from each other. Have been talking about the big scope items with these changes.

BJ: Also talked about recruitment, and that will be important to get in place as Terry and I near our term limits.

Cammi: Do we want to continue with Strativization or look to other options? Do we want to continue? We did not finish our last session.

Garrick: I wasn't there for the last one, but am for continuing after initial experience?

Lacey: Terry and BJ, do you term out in June?

Terry: Yes, and will need to drop out by 8:30pm tonight.

Cammi: Do we want to wait until we have Carol and Steve?

BJ: I think we should continue, but should onboard ASAP so new members are a part of what we're building.

8:13pm Board meeting norms

Garrick: One does a quick overview of the tone and direction of the document Steve brought, and replaced a bit of the wording to make it less punitive sounding and a bit more inviting for what we expect our meetings to look like. Holding accountability, etc. Removed most duplicative things between two documents, and dropped down to a more succinct document on why we gather, and then it can point to the other document that gives the more detailed and full expectations are in the event that there's some level of concern, question, grievance or challenge that arises. Front end and back end approach, with the front being a document of intent and collaboration and the back end being more detailed.

Weren't 100% on everything, but want to get more input.

BJ: Want to give this more time, would appreciate it being tabled until Steve has looked it over and I've been able to give it more thought.

Cammi: Weren't sure what wasn't flowing right or not quite correctly stated.

Ed: Didn't have time for teacher hat on both, but so far good job and appreciate it.

Garrick: Definitely looking for feedback on these.

Cammi: We will revisit this.

8:18pm Community Board Member Recruitment

Cammi: Has anyone come up with any prospects?

Lacey: Do we have limits on where board members reside?

Terry: No specific limits put on geography, as I live quite a few miles away. Was easy for me, but if you get too far out, someone may have difficulty having the commitment to be there.

Cammi: Any ideas for where to look?

Lacey: Willamette University or Western University could be an option, want to be mindful with selection.

Terry: Chamber of Commerce would be a place to talk to.

Cammi: Talked to a member, who said you have to be a member to attend.

Terry: Don't have to be a member to talk to their staff and ask for suggestions. Chemeketa Center for Business staff downtown work with business people all the time. I would be willing to do that.

BJ: More an issue of the time to do the looking than no places to look.

Terry: I travel to Salem a few times a week, could talk.

Cammi: Do you want to talk to the Chamber of Commerce as well?

Terry: Sure.

Cammi: Talked with someone who will help me post on the Willamette board, might get a law student.

Terry: Need to head out.

Cammi: Thanks all for coming tonight. Have a committee meeting scheduled for working on Lacey's contract. Wednesday April 22 at 11am. That will be an executive session. On Monday May 11 is next scheduled meeting. Put virtual and in person, but do you want to just do virtual?

Lacey: June 5 a ribbon cutting celebration, so we could do end of year meeting June 5 in person.

Garrick: Won't be in town on June 5.

Lacey: Doing extravaganza. Lots of exciting things.

Cammi: June 8 would be our meeting. Want to do June annual in person?

Garrick: Yes.

8:31pm

Meeting Adjourn

Next meeting May 11, 6:30pm virtual.

Chat log:

2026-04-13 19:01:26 From windrider to Everyone:

i missed the cow visit.

2026-04-13 19:07:55 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

Hello everyone, good evening!

Beka Benham: (heart)

2026-04-13 19:30:16 From Ashley Morse to Everyone:

Has anything been decided regarding lunches

2026-04-13 19:52:21 From Kassy Selby to Everyone:

We could work on bark dust. I might also know a way to get some every now and then to fill in spots

2026-04-13 19:55:29 From Ashley Morse to Everyone:

I missed the last little part, what will last about another year?

2026-04-13 19:58:10 From Lacey McNay to Everyone:

There are two roofs on portable 3 & 5 that will need new roofs. Portable 3 will need replaced this summer. Portable 5 could likely have another year before needing replaced.

2026-04-13 19:58:41 From Ashley Morse to Everyone:

Replying to "There are two roofs on portable 3 & 5 that will ne...":

Thank you!

2026-04-13 20:18:45 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

I love hearing about this work you all are doing!

2026-04-13 20:23:46 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

They're a great resource!

2026-04-13 20:24:18 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

Also, maybe the Willamette Workforce Boards.

2026-04-13 20:26:48 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

Willamette Workforce Partnership

2026-04-13 20:29:58 From Beth Wigham to Everyone:

Goodnight everyone. Great to be with you and hear the progress being made. Let me know how I can support you all.

Lacey McNay: (heart)