

Valley Inquiry Charter School

January Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025 | In-Person 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	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
Non-Voting Member	Lacey McNay

Meeting Agenda Minutes

6:34pm Call to Order

6:34pm Approving Meeting Minutes

December minutes: Terry moves to accept as written; Ed seconds motion. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. Motion Passes.

January 2 Special Session minutes: Ed moves to accept as written; Stephen seconds motion. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. Motion Passes.

6:36pm Recap of January 2 Special Session

Cammi: District has opened up the possibility of selling this property, and we are pursuing this opportunity and exploring possibilities. First step is for the district to deem property unnecessary for their educational purposes. They are slated to discuss this step tomorrow night at their meeting. After that we can submit an offer if we so choose. Excited to be a part of this process.

Stephen: Hopefully not a surprise, have touched on it but as a real estate transaction is something we've had to be somewhat tight-lipped about. We have

been using the services of consultants, and could really control our destiny if we are able to proceed with it.

6:39pm

Student Council presentation

Avonlee (5th grade student): Student council had their first meeting today. Voted on positions, but don't have results yet. Had a discussion on what they will do in the future, hoping to do some new things, reports and possibly a canned food drive.

Stacy: Will have 20-21 members (at large, class reps 2 each from 3-5, pres, treasurer, vp, secretary). Kids will choose a leader from amongst themselves. Doing a song about attributes. Powered through a lot of material, voting went well.

Cammi: did you go for a position?

Avonlee: Going for Class rep. Looking forward to helping others and making changes.

Stephen: How often do they meet?

Stacy: Currently twice a month, may become weekly.

Stacy: Impressed with willingness of members to step up and represent.

BJ: What are the roles of the 20-21 students?

Stacy clarified many "at large" and a subset of elected positions.

6:44pm

Principal's Report: Lacey McNay

Inquiry clubs: Starting this week on Wednesday, have 11 clubs, will be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 1:45-2:15. Will have a winter session ahead of spring break and a spring session.

New clubs starting this month (yearbook 3-5, choir 3-5, movement/dance k-2, student council 3-5)

ESSER/SIA Grant: We received \$45,793.89 for the 23-24 SIA & ESSER grants reimbursement. SKPS has transferred these funds to our account.

Upcoming staff inservice Friday 1/31/25. Focus in the morning will be on math, afternoon on IB. Integrated subjects, common core standards alignment, units of inquiry, Toddle, and collaborative co-planning.

Cheetah Math Challenges: Stacy Boost and Lacey have been thinking of ways we can incentivize math for our whole school. For reading, we have the incredible

Cheetahs are Readers program (run by Mrs. Boost). We wanted something similar that students could work to earn pins for math, which led us to create... Cheetah Math Challenges. More info coming soon.

Stephen: Reading program very successful with his kids.

Lacey: Glad to hear it's well received.

PTC Craft Passport Night: The PTC hosted an evening event on Dec 13, that featured crafts from around the world. There were over 100 people present. It was a truly great time. We are already planning our next Craft Passport night. We have a lot of culture we can share amongst our student body.

Push-in STEAM classes: K-2 had their first STEAM class of 2025 last week. Created paper sculptures using different types of lines. 3-5 grade will have their STEAM class this week. Has been very enjoyable.

SKPS Charter School Community Survey: Lacey will be sending out a link to an optional survey for Charter School parents to fill out tomorrow. This is part of the documentation process for our integrated plan (SIA grant) with the state (ODE). Questions include:

- What makes your student and family feel as though they are part of the school community?
- In what ways can we continue to build trust between the school and families?
- Regular attendance is considered 90% or higher, what barriers can you help identify that may be preventing your child from coming to school?
- We want students to feel they belong in our schools, how can we increase your child's sense of belonging?

Cammi: Will we get results of that?

Lacey: Will request we get school-specific results.

Terry: Rebecca Turner posted a question in the Zoom chat about what attendance rate currently is.

Lacey: Not sure at the moment but can get it. Not able to see chat while presenting, so thank you for bringing that up.

IB Report: Stacy Boost

IB attribute of the month assemblies (Dec and Jan) (Reflective / Open Minded)
Working on state standards regularly. Hearing "This is something I do all year

long” so starting to gain comfort, but having to do a lot up front. Hectic, but next year we should reap benefits from this year’s planning.

In the middle of iReady diagnostic. Want to make sure we have strong academic rigor, seeing strong growth so far. There are two goals listed, both a typical and a way out there end of the year goal, and kids can see their progress.

BJ: Do we have a timeline for when Toddle will be implemented?

Lacey: Contract set with rep. Payment will be delayed with our office manager out on leave, but hoping to have it in place by inservice date.

Stacy: Saw that some teachers were attempting to access on their own time during break.

Stephen: One of the biggest concerns we’ve heard from parents during the transition were regarding IB. Happy to see people really leaning into it, seeing a lot of progress and staff buy-in, and this transition is going well due to your efforts.

Lacey: Have gotten a lot of questions about how the year is going. When asked the best part, she says students and families. Wonderful to partner with them and see the eagerness for IB and community.

Stacy: Being welcomed despite tough times has been nice.

Ed: We all appreciate your excitement and vigor, and it flows to the kids.

Enrollment Update: Lacey McNay

153 students are currently enrolled.

(Kindergarten: 22, 1st grade: 26, 2nd grade: 25, 3rd grade: 28, 4th grade: 27, 5th grade: 25.)

Lacey: questions?

Ruben: Have any waitlists been depleted?

Lacey: 5th depleted, less on waitlist for K than openings. Have seen an uptick in applications after posting flyers. When it says how did you hear, driving by is surprisingly large, readerboard updates help.

Ruben: how does this impact our budget?

Lacey: We budget for less than full enrollment.

Stephen: Believe we budgeted for 155 enrollment, but the difference is not something that will make us insolvent.

Treasurer's Report

Stephen: Got SIA/ESSER deposit just shy of \$46k. Audit timeline extended through the end of February due to our auditor needing a bit more time. Still have a few November/December receipts needing to be reconciled, minor values but slower due to a staff member being on leave.

Public Comment

Cammi: have not had any emails come in.

Parent (did not catch name): Any possibility for middle school next year?

Stephen: Discussed potentially taking ownership. May have noticed portables sitting out there. Plan would be to expand middle school into those portables as a pod out there. Heavily dependent upon sale of land. Timing for when construction would come through. Would really need the “stars to align” for that to happen, but beginning bidding process already to try to get as much done as quickly as possible during the summer in hopes of Middle School next fall. Still on the table, very much want that to happen, but there are hurdles we have to jump. Right now things are moving well, but don’t know yet whether it will come through.

Cammi: Much dependent upon SKSD decision, but doing our best.

Reuben (parent): Things come up and scheduling is difficult, but communication has been abysmal. Was asked for availability in September and November without response after giving dates.

Stephen: Communication has been difficult as has scheduling. Have gotten a number of interviews scheduled and completed, only two remaining, hoping to have it wrapped up in the next month. Should be resolved soon.

Reuben (parent): Why hasn’t more communication happened?

Stephen: Extremely busy, and as a volunteer it is difficult to squeeze in.

Ed: I am also trying to help with this, not just on Stephen.

Reuben (parent): I did get a response from Ed.

Cammi: Anything from chat?

Terry: No

Lacey: Should we add an agenda item for attendance or just have it on the next report?

Cammi: Just add to the next principal's report.

Board Position Progress

Stephen: Scheduling issues should be resolved for final applicants in the next 2-3 weeks, hoping to have results soon, but always willing to take new applications.

Kinder Open Enrollment

Cammi: Looking forward to the return of our office manager to help with this.

Lacey: Post card campaign to SKPS incoming kinder families will be going out before the end of January, trying to maximize impact. Putting things on our website and asking people to get the word out. Application will go live by the end of this week most likely. No guarantee of a spot, but applying gives a number for the lottery. Upcoming dates:

We will have an info night on 2/5/25 from 5:30-6pm, could run slightly longer.

3/7/25 application closes for 2025

3/20/25 Kindergarten lottery

5/21/25 Incoming kindergarten orientation 5:30-6:30pm

Stephen: Is it live yet?

Lacey: Not yet.

Stephen: Does SKPS advertise their charter schools?

Lacey: Not particularly.

Stephen: If we aren't seeing expected thresholds, are we planning on paid advertising or something along like that? We should look at data for how many applications per spot we have historically had.

Lacey: We may get some families applying where the student in question doesn't meet SKSD requirements for being in the grade level. We follow the SKSD guidelines currently.

7:18pm

Social Media / Photo Release

Cammi: We have looked into our current policy and what we're following from SKPS.

Stephen: Discussed with our attorney, and it sounds as if the photo and social media portions may become two separate policies. Our attorney is researching public forum / first amendment issues about objectionable content if we allow commenting. Work is still being done, more to it than initially meets the eye.

7:20pm

Employee Benefits

Cammi: Nothing to propose or vote on tonight, but should begin thinking about benefit packages for employees. Have heard that help navigating the PeopleKeep system is needed, along with information about what can be claimed, etc. so they can get the most benefit out of it. One question was regarding mental health services and counseling, and it plays into what benefit or package or company they choose for health benefits. If we can support their use more effectively, that would be helpful. If we were to find our own health benefit package, it would cost us substantially due to our small size but want to provide something competitive to retain and attract teachers. We may be able to offer more through PeopleKeep than we currently are.

Stephen: We should figure out the cost first, but speaking with a benefits consultant would be helpful, along with analysis of whether there are other options that might be a better fit for our needs. It would be good to have a subcommittee evaluate this before the next budget cycle.

Cammi: Anyone interested? Cammie and Stephen indicated interest, BJ said he possibly could help.

Tech feedback

Cammi: Did the mixed live/virtual format work okay for those online?

Terry: Yes.

Garrick (parent): At times, when moving mic around lost audio a bit, but heard fine after switching to a headset.

Terry: PowerPoint worked well. Didn't hear audience comments. Would be good to point the mic at people a little more actively. Appreciate the ability to attend virtually.

7:27pm

Next Meeting info

Next meeting: February 10, 2025 virtual on Zoom at 6:30pm.

7:27pm

Meeting Adjourn