

Valley Inquiry Charter School

February Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024 | Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Board Members

Board President & Chair
Campos

Vice Chair
Colby

Treasurer

Secretary
(Temporary)

At-Large

At-Large

At-Large

At-Large

At-Large

Non-Voting Member

Instructors/Staff/Other:

Cammi Menager Mary

Terry Rohse (Absent) Melissa

BJ Foster Sandra Acosta

Vacant (BJ Foster as

Stephen Staten

Ed Austin

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

Gary Etchemendy, Principal

Meeting Agenda Minutes

6:34pm Call to Order
- Cammi called to order.

6:35pm Review/Approve Board Meeting Minutes-
Ed motioned to accept January 2024 minutes as written, Stephen seconded.
Vote: 4 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstain.

6:36pm Treasurer Report
BJ stated the finances have been fairly uneventful, beyond the usual payroll there have been charges for A/C repair, architectural work and soccer equipment/mascot. About \$800k in the bank. Mary mentioned equipment charges should settle for February; we got nice soccer goals and a new mascot paid for by jogathon funds, and we should get more info about them in the upcoming newsletter.

6:39pm Principal Report
- Gary stated we are fully staffed.

- Audit report: Because of the SIA grant, we have to include reviewing it in the agenda and minutes, but don't have to approve it. No findings, straightforward.
- Sandra reported on current enrollment: Four open spots (2 spots in KG, one in 3rd grade and one in 5th) and a 2nd grade spot that will be open soon. Not too worried, we have given and scheduled tours for prospective families, but giving 24 hours for response does add time.
- Plenty of new KG apps (Per Melissa: application window will close on 3/8/24, with the lottery held on 3/21/24).
- Gary stated around 20 families showed up for the recent VICS open house.

6:44pm

I.B. Report

Melissa stated the current profile is being a communicator.

- 7 staff members (including Melissa) took a pie in the face as a reward to students for filling the action board.
- Self-study evaluation has been submitted, agenda being put together. Our evaluator wants a 45m meeting with the governing body during April 15-17, 2024 (M-W), so we will need to find an available time.
- Recent professional development (focus topics: "Agency, Action and Engagement"), with a goal of promoting and supporting student action.
- We had a visit from Coburg (K-8) interested in learning more about becoming an IB school. Fielded lots of questions about what it takes; we may have future collaborative PD opportunities if they move forward.

6:47pm

Early Literacy Grant and Budget

Gary presented on the topic of "Early Literacy Success School District Grant Application."

- Early literacy grant: must be presented to the Governing Board, then voted on and accepted to move forward.
- Purpose is to provide info, get public comment, and seek Board approval.
- Application covers initial 2023-2025 biennium and was submitted by 1/8/2024.
- Floor funding \$41,690.33 at minimum student population numbers; unspent funds from first year can roll into second year.

Early Literacy Program Review:

- Strengths include Culture and international mindedness embedded into program of inquiry; reading standards written into each unit of inquiry; learner profile attributes core of SEL lessons; core review meetings held 3x per year; active PTC and school board; Heggerty and ECRI; Tier 2/3 interventions; projection map for standards utilized; EasyCBM and iReady used to analyze student progress; literacy block includes whole group, small group and independent practice.
- Areas for growth: Core Reading Curriculum needed; Integrated ELD strategies; Tier 2 curricula, teaching routines and training.
- PD: Integrated ELD strategies; Tier 2 curricula, teaching routines and training.

- Extended Learning Programs: Possibly participate in District summer programs or Jumpstart kindergarten.
- High dosage tutoring (Tier 2/3 intervention), extra support provided outside core literacy block so that students have ample opportunities to meet grade level standards and fill any learning gaps they may have. This instruction is delivered by trained staff. We are working toward using evidence-based curriculum, systematic and explicit instruction.
- Seeking research-aligned curriculum.
- Communication plan: ODE encouraged us to look at other schools to see what they are doing to get input from a variety of sources.
- Student Growth Assessment: District appears to be moving away from EasyCBM; we may choose to retain it and also adopt the new program to be able to see different measures.

Grant proposal:

- Requires matching funds (25% matching funds from school, roughly \$10k - can source from SSF)
- Budget 2023-2024: Budget 0.3 this year for a specialist, will likely roll funds over to next year as a 0.6 position (since ESSER funds expire after this year) to help bridge that funding gap. Roughly 5k budgeted for curriculum during the first year, but that will not be a recurring cost in the second year.

BJ asked what curriculum is being used? He stated we have had issues with curriculum in the past pushing for early fluency to the point of encouraging guessing, creating reading problems for students that were more difficult to overcome later. Gary said we would seek a balanced curriculum and try to avoid pitfalls, but we have not selected the program yet.

Ed asked what the timeline is? Gary said our grant proposal needs to be done by the end of this month.

Carrie asked if we have to have the curriculum chosen by then? Gary said no, we have a fairly flexible timeline on implementation.

Stephen asked if this is directly through the state or through the district? Gary stated this is through Oregon State; ODE didn't allow SKSD to include charter schools when they applied; so we had to apply separately within a tight one-day window.

Ed moved to accept the grant proposal and budgeted items as proposed, Stephen seconded. Vote: 4 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstain.

7:02pm

Parking Lot Updates

Cammie said K&L just got our letter and said they will provide proof of insurance and expect to have a proposed timeline for us within the next few days. Gary stated he will be meeting with Joel Smallwood tomorrow and expects to discuss the related portable situation.

7:05pm **Public Comments-**
- No comments

7:07pm **Executive Session Begins**

7:30pm **General Session Resumes**
No further items.

7:31pm **Meeting Adjourn**

Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:30pm. This meeting will be held in-person at Valley Inquiry Charter School.