

Bear River Charter School Governing Board Minutes

February 21, 2017

I. Call to Order

5:35 p.m.

II. Building Purchase

We intend to make an offer to purchase the building, contingent on a financing agreement with a bank. There is some concern about our audit statements and Jeremy is going to go through and see what he can do to make our financials look a little more attractive. We are on solid footing financially, but there were some one-time purchases that make it look a bit off. Jeremy thinks we are in good shape, but it's definitely not a slam dunk.

III. Past Minutes

N. Vouvalis moves to approve the minutes from last time; B. Bingham seconds; all in favor none opposed.

IV. Financial Update

Our net income forecast puts us at 5.1% operating margin (which does not take into account the use of reserves). A majority of our movement in a positive direction came from movement within those larger categories and making sure we are appropriately categorizing our expenses.

\$23,000 of our additional funds were grant funds that Janet secured for us, and budget cuts that Janet effectuated by taking a closer look at the budget. We think we can pull down even some additional items, to make our net income look a bit more attractive for a potential financing offer.

The Board discussed pulling in some money left over from previous years to see if we can make a good case for pulling more than we typically have in federal dollars. Steve indicated that we may be inviting an audit. However, if everything is by the book, we would not worry about an audit. Red Apple does not think there is anything concerning about this plan. Kleiner asked if there was any reason not to do this; Steve indicated that everything would be appropriate.

In the coming days, the Board is going to need to make decisions about the potential movement of money. We will need to make ourselves available on potentially short notice.

V. SCA Updates

None

VI. Skill Level Grouping and RTI Update

In the late fall, the Intervention Committee was formed. Janet, Teresa Buttars, Clint Nichols, and Lisa Weaver formed this committee. Some really great things are happening. We have a lot of ability groups, including moving students both up and down between "grades" when it meets the ability group for the students. In K-3, we have four skill groups in each grade. In grades 4 and 5, there are three skill groups, and in 6-8, we have six skill groups with a lot of fluidity.

Perhaps one of the most innovative things we are doing is the response to intervention. Every day, for 30 minutes, students who are referred by their teachers are in the study skills group, and all of the available aides are there with detailed reports about what students need. Assignments are being turned in, grades are going up, and comprehension is increasing.

Tim gave some helpful advice about moving this more fluid structure forward. The Board praised Janet and, more specifically, the teachers for this structure. It sounds great in so many ways and that the teachers are seeing the return on investment in terms of student performance is all the reason to keep supporting this.

Meralee will be returning next month, and will be helping with some of the goals that are on Janet's handouts.

VII. Teacher Incentives

The Board will revisit teacher incentives next month, but Janet has some really great ideas.

VIII. SNAPSHOT Survey

Tetra Analytix stated that we did not get enough feedback to generate a report.

IX. School Safety

There is a group that deals with some safety issues, and is very affordable. It functions sort of like USU's Code Blue Alert System; it can work directly with teachers, police, administrators, and parents.

X. Snow Day

The Utah Board of Education is considering giving schools waivers to make up the snow days from last month. BRCS has received preliminary approval for the waiver. Vouvalis expressed discomfort with letting go of instructional hours if we didn't need to. Slocum agreed. Bingham noted that a lot of parents did not want to have to make up the snow days. Janet added that BRCS is over the instructional hour requirement by more than 100 hours, so we really aren't losing instructional time. The Board decided to simply poll the parents.

XI. Art Program Update

Maria has submitted her resignation for next year.

XII. Health Care Extension

BRCS has received another extension into our health care plan, which is not ACA compliant. Given the uncertain landscape for health care regulation, the extension is welcome. We will still meet with teachers to learn more about plan features that are important to them.

XIII. Building Update

We started with this; this update is complete.

XIV. Closed Session

Bingham moves to go into a closed session. Slocum seconds. 7:21 p.m.

XV. Adjourn

8:23 p.m.