

Bear River Charter School Governing Board 2.10.16 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

5:40 p.m.

H. Kleiner, M. M. Kidman, N. Vouvalis, V. Jenkins, B. Bingham, A. Odum J. Adams were in attendance at the call to order.

II. Past Minutes

The minutes were not compiled from the two people who took minutes; they will be approved via email or at the following Board Meeting.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Financial Update

For local revenue, some field trip monies came in. State monies are right at where we should be for the budget year. The Beverly Sorenson Taylor Arts Grant hasn't come in yet, but it will.

Our federal awards monies aren't in, but the award letters are. The amounts in the letters are higher than we were promised at the beginning of the year; BRCS should receive approximately \$4000 more than had been estimated previously. The Board had previously been told that BRCS' special education dollars were going to be substantially less than we had originally worked into the budget. However, the decision to fund that at a lower amount appears to have been reversed, and BRCS will have the money that was anticipated at the time that a budget was approved for this fiscal year. This is good news for payment of the special education aides the school needs.

In terms of expenditures, BRCS is doing better than most charter schools. BRCS is not in the red in any area, which is pretty remarkable. Red Apple adjusted the expenditure forecast up by less than \$2,000, but with the additional federal funds, BRCS should more than cover some extra costs (worker's comp claim, teacher fair materials, building needs, etc.).

SB 38 is looking likely to pass, which would put about \$34M into charter schools statewide. It would be about \$500 more per pupil for Bear River Charter School.

V. Sabbatical Policy & Wheaton Request

On the subject of the Wheatons, J. Adams and H. Kleiner decided to grant the sabbatical. A. Odum moves to officially approve the sabbatical leave request; second by V. Jenkins. All in favor, none opposed.

Families may request an extended leave of 10+ consecutive absences from school. Added to H. Kleiner's proposed language: "and whether these adverse impacts could be mitigated." "A

recommendation that takes into account all relevant issues will be made to the Governing Board, which will decide if the extended absence request will be granted.”

A. Odum moves to accept H. Kleiner’s proposed policy #2 with the amendments noted above. All in favor; none opposed.

VI. Follow Up on Teacher Requests

Teachers came to the Board at the beginning of the academic year with some requests. J. Adams presented on some follow up items that have taken place since that time.

The first was that teachers wished for students to remain in their grades, which allows for the efficient scheduling of paraprofessionals. Thus, the starting presumption is that a student should remain in their grade. However, there is a new placement protocol in place (adopted at a previous Board meeting) which will allow students to be moved up a grade level if needed. The protocol will clarify and simplify the process of placing students into instructional groups, and provide needed transparency in the decision making process for parents.

The next was that teachers needed more, and more qualified, paraprofessionals to work in the classrooms. As a result, Bear River capitalized on the loss of a teacher to move to a grade level school. In the higher grades, a team teaching approach has been adopted: the Language Arts specialist teaches LA to all three grades; history specialist to all three grades, etc. This allows for better qualified teachers in the higher grade levels, and a need for fewer specialized paraprofessionals. BRCS is saving on one teacher’s salary this way. This will allow us to hire more classroom aides that are more qualified: one aid per teacher in K-4 at three hours per day; 5-8 at two hours per day.

The third request is that teachers needed annual summer inservice training. Moving forward, summer training will take place in June – new teachers would be hired before school ends in May. Summer professional development also has some state funds available for reimbursement.

Teachers also articulated a need for current core curriculum resources. J. Adams is exploring a process whereby curriculum mapping takes place with an expert from Edith Bowen.

Teachers requested an early out day that provides time for regular teacher collaboration. J. Adams will propose a calendar before April. A. Odum emphasized that looking at what high schools do regarding early out or late start would really benefit parents. Other Board members expressed concern that this would pose a hardship on families where both parents work, and seems inconsistent with the need for more instructional time (articulated at the original presentation from the teachers).

Outreach and having parents understand what BRCS is about was an important concern. BRCS is now contracting with a company to revamp the website. New features will include a video taped lesson, demonstrating the DI method. Also, an orientation will be held which helps parents who enter through the lottery understand the culture, values, and driving forces behind BRCS.

VII. SCA Update

None. Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.