

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by H. Kleiner. M. Cannon, R. Kegerries, S. Pinkelman, L. Summers, and N. Vouvalis in attendance.

Steve Finley & Janet Adams are also in attendance.

P. Willis joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

### II. Past Minutes

M. Cannon moves to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2020 meeting. S. Pinkelman seconds. No further discussion; all are in favor, none opposed.

### III. Public Comment

No public in attendance.

### IV. Financial Update from Red Apple

As per the usual, the school is looking very good in terms of its cash reserves. There are a lot of up-front expenses, and those revenues that cover those costs come later via reimbursement from the state and federal government.

H. Kleiner expressed a preference for moving around this year's cap ex expenditures; rather than pulling from reserves, we should spend on the budget we have, and dip into reserves later. Steve noted that he would make that change in our records.

Almost every charter school is having enrollment issues. While we weren't hurt too badly by the cuts and changes related to COVID, there are some concerns. Essentially, we can lose two students without being in a negative budget situation. Beyond that, it's a darker view, because many of the expenditures are fixed – we have to spend that money no matter how many students are attending school. That allows us to be down to 158 and be at a break-even for our budget. Steve noted that many schools are seeing 20-25% reductions; many parents are just keeping their children at home. So BRCS is doing quite well relative to other schools, and S. Finley does not have concerns about the school's financial stability.

The state is doing a straw poll, due September 9, asking about enrollments. They want to get a feel for what is going on with enrollments throughout the state. They are concerned that there are a lot of children not in school in any way, even via homeschooling. This might open opportunities for grants and additional funds, because the state understands that schools are hurting. H. Kleiner noted that it seems unlikely that there would be further cuts, which is good news. J. Adams noted that things are likely to fluctuate throughout the year, in terms of enrollments.

T. Powell joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

## V. Gossip

L. Summers shared that while all of the items related to starting school are hard, she thinks BRCS has done a really good job. It hasn't been a struggle at all. H. Kleiner noted that the communication to parents has also been great and clear.

S. Pinkelman noted that there are concerns about staff at the school wearing masks in areas where they should be wearing masks. Enforcement of the masking policy among students is also sometimes lacking. H. Kleiner noted that the only person with a private office is J. Adams, so wondered where teachers and staff might not have masks on; in all shared spaces, the governor's mandate is that there be a face covering. J. Adams indicated that the lunch room sometimes lacks face coverings, but only because people are eating, and they socially distance to at least six feet when that is the case.

## VI. Update on Opening; Report on "Strong Start"

The teachers worked hard to ensure that all families came in and had appointments for the Strong Start. Janet began and ended each day with a gathering of everyone, to see what was working and what wasn't. There wasn't any negative feedback, and everyone seemed to engage earnestly. There has been a parent concern subsequently, and J. Adams committed to discussing that concern broadly with the teachers who would benefit from that discussion. The broadcast equipment arrived yesterday, and will be installed in the coming days. H. Kleiner noted that it would be nice to have assessment data at the October Board meeting, to assess the impact of the Strong Start. J. Adams committed to bringing some assessment data to the next meeting.

## VII. Drop Off/ Pick Up Discussion

R. Kegerries posed to the Board that other schools are not taking the measures at drop off/pick up as strictly as we are, and hoped that the differences he has observed warranted a discussion. Other parent members of the Board shared their experience of drop off and pick up, and there is a consensus that it is currently difficult, but improving. L. Summers suggested an email toward the end of the week reminding parents about the new procedures and also thanking them for working so hard to make everything work. R. Kegerries was also supportive; J. Adams stated that she'd send an email later this week. Particular items to note included that if parents were going to get out of their vehicles, it would be helpful if they could park so as to help the flow of traffic. Also, J. Adams indicated that she would call the city to see if the area in front of the school could be designated a no parking zone during certain hours, particularly in support of the COVID-related measures the school was taking to ensure student safety.

## VIII. Middle School Curriculum and Grouping Discussion

There was a plan to move in a particular math direction, particularly for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, prior to the school year. Our previous math teacher was planning to stay on and train the new BRCS middle school math teacher, Tyler Powell. However, for several reasons, that could not occur and the previous teacher is not with the school for now. J. Adams and T. Powell discussed, and decided to adopt conceptual math instruction, which is operationalized via the Utah Middle School Math Project. He taught with this curriculum in his previous role, so he's familiar with it and began teaching with it this year.

H. Kleiner asked whether this was for all of the middle school grades, or just for eighth grade. T. Powell noted that this would be for eighth grade only, and that Saxon Math is still utilized in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

M. Cannon asked whether this allowed students to move into middle school in advanced math; T. Powell noted that it likely did, and that he worked to supplement the curriculum.

N. Vouvalis and S. Pinkelman noted concerns with the curriculum. N. Vouvalis shared resources that the Utah Middle School Math Project pointed to as an assessment of the curriculum; while the curriculum scored highly overall, some particular areas of struggle are precisely the areas of BRCS' charter. Ability Grouping and Assessment both received relatively low marks, as did the ability to assess students as they moved through the curriculum. T. Powell noted that he supplemented the curriculum to address these defects. S. Pinkelman noted that the curriculum does not appear on the What Works Clearinghouse, which is a reputable resource for assessing effective curriculum. S. Pinkelman wondered whether training on the previously agreed-upon curriculum was possible; J. Adams thought it unlikely, and even if so, that it would require a mid-year switch. H. Kleiner noted that he appreciated T. Powell's efforts in making the best of an uncertain situation. In the future, the Board might look to a curriculum that has different paths built into it, so that so much supplemental work from the teacher was not required.

At this time, the curriculum is already being taught, and it seems to be what the new math teacher is most familiar with. This year, there are sure to be many challenges, and in some areas, the school has to make gametime decisions and move forward with how students can be best served right now.

P. Willis moves to provide provisional approval for use of the Utah Middle School Math Project for the eighth grade, with periodic reporting on data and progress of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. M. Cannon seconds the motion. L. Summers, M. Cannon, S. Pinkelman, R. Kegerries, and P. Willis are in favor. None are opposed. N. Vouvalis abstains. The motion passes.

#### IX. Charter Licensure

P. Willis moves to grant a charter-specific license to Marianne Young and Katie Stoker for a three-year term, the maximum permitted by state guidelines. S. Pinkelman seconds. No further discussion. All are in favor. None opposed.

J. Adams will work on the development of a policy surrounding charter-specific licensure, which is a new requirement from the state for schools that will grant these types of licenses.

#### X. Board Goals for the Year

H. Kleiner needs completion certificates for required Board trainings. He'll send more information on this soon.

The Board should work toward creating a list of its responsibilities to supplement the role statement that it put together for the Executive Director.

#### XI. New Business

N. Vouvalis' term on the Board ends in October. She will finish out the calendar year, to ensure an adequate replacement with enough time to onboard that individual. H. Kleiner noted that he would also be stepping away from the role of Board president at a time in the near future, though with no real time

limit. N. Vouvalis thanked H. Kleiner for his dedication to the school and the Board; many advances the school has made (from updates to the charter to the purchase of the building and adjoining land) would not have occurred but for his efforts. A less involved Board President would not have overseen such sweeping and important changes for the school's long-term health.

## XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.