

I. Members in Attendance

At Call to Order: H. Kleiner; V. Jenkins; N. Vouvalis; B. Bingham; J. Adams.

P. Willis joined at 5:48 pm.

A. Odum joined at 5:49 pm.

M. Kidman joined at 6:27 pm.

II. Call to Order

5:34 pm

III. Approval of Retreat Minutes

N. Vouvalis moves to approve the minutes; V. Jenkins seconds. We will approve September minutes over email following this meeting.

IV. Learning Tree Grant

Jennifer Sapp and Anne Desjardins are applying for a Learning Tree Grant, which relates to our Green School Portfolio. BRCS is applying for the school to be a Green school with an annual renewal process.

Francis Caplan will serve on the team along with Anne, Janet, and Jen Sapp. Jen Peeples and Colby Toefl-Grehl will also serve on the parent green team.

Jenn Sapp presented a powerpoint presentation on many of the initiatives BRCS is already doing to be considered a Green School. We meet the criteria for the first pillar, which is sustainable facilities. We have just registered, as well, to be an idle-free school. Based on our facilities sustainability, we meet the Bronze Level of the Green Schools program.

Being a Utah Green School is likely helpful in future grant opportunities that would benefit Bear River Charter School. Additionally, other facets of the pillars to qualify are already being met.

V. Jenkins moves to pass a resolution to support the Green Schools initiative; B. Bingham seconds. No further discussion; all in favor – the resolution unanimously passes.

V. Financial Update from Red Apple

Chris Miller and Matt from Red Apple presented the budget. Chris will be replacing Matt after this meeting as BRCS' representative.

We are 25% of the way through the year. Our revenues are in the negative, but there are updates. We budgeted for 172-pupil enrollment, but reached 175, so we will see an increase in state revenues. Our numbers will adjust upward in terms of revenues, which is not reflected in this forecast, but will be by next meeting.

The biggest hit to our budget this year was Title I dollars. We had projected higher based on information from the federal government, but Title I funds were misallocated, so we were underallocated by about \$19,500. This was an accounting error from the Title I budget office, but they are not helping with the deficit that was created by that office's error.

We are under budget for salaries and benefits. Some of these numbers will adjust, but health insurance especially will increase. Overall, however, we are still doing well on our budget projections for salaries and benefits.

Our audit and technology expenses are the highest expenses in the Professional and Technical Services, but those will be wrapped up soon.

In our property services, repairs and maintenance need to be watched, but we will simply keep an eye on it.

Because of some of the turnover for this year, there were some expenses that were unanticipated. We are in the red a bit more than usual. It will be a little tight, but we

should end the year in the positive once we make adjustments for money coming in and especially our Title I aides that will be coming out.

VI. SCA Bank Account Update

Can the SCA keep a separate bank account? Red Apple will research this and get back to us at the next Board meeting.

VII. Building Maintenance Status

The building is now re-keyed. Beezer keys came and did the work, and it was a very involved project. Teachers now have one key that gets them into the building and accesses all of the rooms except the front office. Building owners will be given a key as well.

The Fire Marshall came and did an inspection, and noticed that our Exit signs were not working. They had all been disconnected; electricians were called in to make the repair, but we have not yet received the bill.

BRCS has been using a list of volunteers who signed up at back to school night as being willing to help out with odd jobs and minor maintenance issues around the school. Brian Bingham has agreed to head that committee up, and he coordinates small odd jobs around the school. People at the school have been really happy to have those things fixed. Finally, the fence on the West side of the school is in a state of disrepair. There are exposed nails, rotting issues, etc. and it is becoming a safety issue. The Board needs to approach the owner of that property about fixing the fence. We would provide free labor for repair if the owner would get the materials. J. Adams will follow up on this.

There was also some discussion of trying to purchase some rights to part of that lot, so that we could have some grassy areas for the children to play in.

VIII. Updates on Interventions with the Students

There has been no deviation from the last approved proposal. We have an advanced math group meeting with a tutor during the week. He is coordinating with the new math teacher, and things are going smoothly. Micah is also working with 8th graders who need additional help with math, doing that during his planning period before lunch. Parents have been notified about this extra support opportunity, and this is up and running as of earlier this week. Marianne is doing a writing group on extra time – this will take place during school hours, as the parents expressed a preference for. That will begin next week. We also hired another USU tutor that works in the classroom with the 8th grade group.

A. Odum and H. Kleiner brought up that their children are not receiving ability grouping instruction, at least in math. J. Adams agreed to do a needs assessment and see how we can ensure that we stick to the mission and values reflected in the charter. J. Adams will conduct a needs assessment, and bring back to the Board what those needs are and how we can meet them.

IX. To Dos (Manuals, Charter, etc.)

We are still working on these.

X. SAGE Test Results

Janet will summarize the SAGE test results by grade, comparing to previous years and the state average. We received a lower grade than anticipated, and that is largely because of participation rates. If more than one child per class doesn't take the test, it impacts us pretty strongly (due to our small size), and state reports do not factor in families who opt out of the testing.

XI. Other Business

In previous years, there has been a Buddhist Retreat here at BRCS, and they have rented the building for a weekend for \$300. P. Willis moves to allow the meditation group to use the building; A. Odum seconds. No further discussion; all in favor.

The Board will work with J. Adams to develop a procedure for handling requests of this kind in the future.

Tim and Anne receive a lot of fire alarm calls. The Board will work to determine whose role that should be (building owner or day-to-day user), and assign that duty with the according role.

Terry Dodds is coming next month (Nov. 18-20). J. Adams has been invited to Colorado Springs to visit a model DI school; the Board supports J. Adams taking up the invite.

Our Spanish teacher needs a request for "eminence," which means that we need to explain why she is not on an ARL, but that she is uniquely qualified to teach this subject. This is necessary because of her provision of credit to middle school students, and distinct from charter-specific licenses. Harrison, as the Chair of the Board, signed the letter to grant eminence.

Brian attended the last SCA meeting. They had some concerns about the Stokes Nature Center fee – how would that be paid if SCA comes up short on the fundraising goals? The Stokes Nature Center program has historically been paid for by SCA fundraising, but this is a part of the BRCS charter. The Board would need to cover the gaps.

The BRCS Board of Directors unanimously approved the Utah Consolidated Application circulated by J. Adams.

XII. Adjournment

7:36 pm