



February 14, 2018
Minutes

Call to Order at 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board Members: John Hanafee, Chair, Ally Jakubicka, Vice Chair, G'anna Burke, Secretary, Sarah Sullivan, Rhoda Cortez, Becky Page, Tavia Pagan, Joanne Ahola, Kim Crawford, Anh Nguyen.

Guests: Amala Easton, Caleb Buckley, Michelle Campbell, Averen Bareggi, Satya Ranchod, Afsoun Peyvandi, Daniel Nordaas, John Baker, Barbara Ames, Lacey Kaplan-Coleman, Heather Fraser- Hurtt, Efrat Gubezskis, Matthew Hammond, Liz Muir, Amy Barden, Senzelle Fanseca-Nowak, Susan Gutierrez, Kerri Johnson, Jennifer Huetter, Melissa Hymas, Charlene Prottung.

Flag Salute/Quote/Moment of Silence – Caleb Buckley read the Grace virtue card.

Public Comment – Matthew Hammond shared that GV is their second family. Families have a measure of disfunction. We want to be the best version of ourselves. There is an “us versus them” attitude here. “If you’re not happy, you can look elsewhere” Teachers should choose their mentor. Feel like the step-sister to River School. The Board should be included in all hirings and firings.

Michelle Campbell read two letters.

Lacey Kaplan Coleman wants to share her experience with Cherry Blossom homeschool. She feels Annie Bosque is a real asset to our community. She believes that the person who does homeschool for the grades should have the same skills.

Melissa Hymas addressed homeschool: Three C’s of what makes homeschool great: champion, communication, community. How will we mentor the new homeschool teacher so they can grow the homeschool program.

G’anna Burke read a letter from Rasa Nasr.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board approved the *January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes* with the following corrections: spelling “Rasa Nasr” and “Joanne Ahola”. (Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

Tahoe Truckee Charter

The board reviewed a draft petition for Golden Valley Tahoe School. We are now looking to submit the charter to the Newcastle Elementary School District.

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Out of State Field Trip

The Board voted to approve out of state field trips to Ashland, OR for the River and Orchard 7th grades in the 2017/18 school year. (Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

2018/19 School Calendar – 5:25 p.m.

Orchard teachers do not want to wait until December to have conferences. They feel it's too long to wait. The Board voted to table the calendar. (Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

Golden Valley Orchard Safety Plan

The Board reviewed the Safety Plan for the Orchard School.

- Remove all yellow highlights
- Remove Daniel Nordaas from Orchard
- Page 6-8 – Add 916 to all phone numbers
- Page 12 – If a staff member is listed in the Safety Plan, make sure the staff member knows they have been included on the plan and what their responsibilities are
- Page 42 – Child Abuse – reporting to the principal
- Page 55 – Move bullets
- Page 57 – Do we follow the referral process?
- Page 62 – are we doing snake bite training?

The Board voted to form safety committees at each school to look at the safety plans, make recommendations, and bring the plans back to the board. (Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

Golden Valley River Safety Plan

The Board reviewed the Safety Plan for the River School. The Board voted to form safety committees at each school to look at the safety plans, make recommendations, and bring the plans back to the board. (Ayes: 10, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

Board Processes

The Board discussed how they respond to concerns brought by parents to the board.

- FAQ's on BOT page that explain what the Board can do and what the Board cannot do
- Board retreat should be used to establish what we focus on as a board
- Public comment shouldn't be used as an end run around the process of following the proper channels
- The proper channels have not been effective.
- What does transparency mean?
- Review feedback and grievance processes



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- BOT shouldn't be involved in the day to day of the school
- Admin needs to be communicating with the BOT about what's happening when there are issues being brought to the BOT
- Hiring and Firing
- Communication – managing the expectations

Reports

Executive Director: The Executive Director presented items of interest to the board.

Finance Report: No report.

Board Chair: ED Eval committee has not met yet.

Orchard Faculty Chair: Sarah Sullivan reported that she is busy with her class play.

River Faculty Chair: Becky Page reported that Valentine's Day is a wonderful day to visit River. The eagles have laid their first eggs of the season.

Community Reports

CCSA – Joanne Ahola reported that charter schools are serving almost as many special ed students as standard public schools.

GVEF – Caleb Buckley reported that GVEF approved a plan to close class accounts at Schools Credit Union and open new accounts under the GVCS Wells Fargo account.

Recitation of the Motto of the Social Ethic –

The healing social life is found
When in the mirror of each human soul
The whole community finds its reflection,
And when, in the community,
The virtue of each one is living.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amala Easton.

John Hanafee, Chair

Date

Dear Golden Valley Hiring Committee,

We have recently heard that Mrs. Geoffroy has decided to retire from teaching and we inquired to whether Mrs. Martinez was considering applying for the soon to be available position. Upon discovering that she had already applied, we quickly came to consensus that we should write and send a letter to the hiring committee strongly endorsing her as a potential candidate for the position. Of course there are many criteria used in determining the best fit for the position, but we wanted to offer our perspective as community members who have had a Parent/Teacher relationship with Mrs. Martinez.

We are all parents who have had children in the classroom in which Mrs. Martinez's is a Teacher's Assistant. As far as we can ascertain she is universally treasured and admired as an assistant teacher in Mrs. Buck's classroom. We find her to be warm, welcoming, strongly conversant in the Waldorf pedagogical approach and exhibiting excellent child-management techniques.

Excellent Waldorf Kindergarten teachers have a difficult to define yet easily recognized skill in creating a soothing and warm atmosphere in which young children feel relaxed, safe and engaged. There is a patience and equanimity needed in dealing with the varied temperaments found in young children. In observing Mrs. Martinez leading activities in the classroom and outdoors, we have come to greatly admire the loving and centered manner in which she is able to manifest these qualities.

We feel that Mrs. Martinez would make an excellent member of our Waldorf teaching community.

Thank you,

Current and Former Apple Blossom Parents

Berry Crawford
Kim Crawford
Jan Oren
Lisa [unclear]
Jim Butner
Jane Cuy
Angeela Lucero
Jennifer Summers
Linda Chase
Janice Bell

~~By Mrs. [unclear]~~
Doreen Bauer
Kath Alumin (BUT I'D LOVE TO STILL HAVE YOU WITH MARCO'S A SECOND YEAR)
[unclear]
Michelle Campbell
Anne Smyth
Hava Wilkins
Beth Dyl
Chico
~~W. [unclear]~~ (Nathia Chumley)
Galya Ranchod

Good afternoon,

First I'd like to acknowledge and thank the administration for the dialogue that opened after the turn out of the orchard community at the board meeting last fall.

In an effort to continue that dialogue, a few parents including myself have reached out to the community with a question. What could we implement to help support our school in the next year?

I'd like to give you some of the responses I received:

- open communication with action
- providing the upper grades with opportunities for volunteering on campus,
- supporting community building between the grades,
- relying more on the faculty's leadership/expertise,
- increasing the boards involvement/oversight notably with hiring/firing,
- and finally, and most often commented, support for the children.

In response to the most received comment regarding student support, we ask that the school take priority in the establishment of a teacher-driven strategy for proactive support of the children. It seems appropriate that this could include classroom aids, designated space with staff, IEP assessments, access to a psychologist, and development of universal policies around these issues. A proactive strategy is necessary to help the children and also provide relief to the teacher and classroom ultimately supporting a positive and successful learning space.

In order to address orchard community comments, I request the board create an agenda item at next months meeting for an open dialogue.

Thank you,
Michelle Campbell
Juniper Tree parent

① I would like to ^{first} thank the board for their time with what has been going on at the Orchard school. I wish the outcome could have been different, but I hope that we can learn from this for our future. I feel ^{open} communication with in ^{school} a between staff & Parents could really ^{be a} benefit

As a parent, I choose to send my children to this school because of the Waldorf aspect.

② Which includes our teachers to be Waldorf trained teachers.

The commitment to become a Waldorf teacher should be applauded.

Our teachers have ~~made~~ ^{invested} dedicated lots of time and energy to their students. They are the pillars of our school & should be supported & respected.

They should have a voice in the type of mentoring & training that is needed for them to grow as Waldorf teachers. They should be

③ given additional training & support to deal with students who have special needs, such as language, academic, physical & behavioral & emotional.

Our teachers should also be given support & training in ways to ^{take} care of their mental health to ~~allow~~ reduce stress & burnout.

It is crucial for us to have an environment where teachers can ask for help freely without feeling judged or fear of being punished.

④ I would also like to know if there's a standard policy regarding ① students who have continuous behavioral problems in class & how it's dealt with. ② How students receive IEP's, and ③ who is in charge of dealing with grievances.

Lastly, I would like to encourage the board to either make a committee or the board itself be the committee to be in charge of hiring & firing of staff. I feel firing & hiring should

5) be done by a group where different views & perspectives could be discussed.

Finally, because I have spent a lot of brain energy here, I would like some sort of response from the board. And I'm not sure if I have to use this term, but I'd like this to be added as agenda items.

Thank you for your time.

Rasa Nasr