

August 19, 2020

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm.

Roll Call – 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Heather Fraser Hurtt, Chair, G’anna Burke, Jennifer Huetter, Stephanie Parmely, Stephen Quadro, Brittney Kilbey (new member), Adrianna Wray joined at 5:15pm.

Flag Salute/Quote/Moment of Silence – Caleb Buckley read the Caring Virtue card.

Public Comment –

Stephanie Parmely made a public comment regarding child abuse training.

Stephanie Lorenz made a public comment regarding ELPAC assessment.

Jennifer Hoover made a public comment regarding ELPAC assessment.

Alicia Fergusson made a public comment regarding distance learning.

Joanne Ahola made a public comment regarding the COVID19 reopening efforts.

Stephanie Parmely made a public comment regarding using the same Zoom link for every meeting.

Charlotte Gibbs made a public comment regarding distance learning.

Consent Agenda – The Board approved the following items by consent. (Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, G’anna Burke, Absent: 1, Adrianna Wray)

5.1 ***June 3, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes***

5.2 ***July 17, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes***

5.3 ***August 6, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes***

Appointment of New Members to the Board – The board appointed Brittany Kilby to the Board of Trustees. (Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Adrianna Wray)

Distance Learning Plan for 2020/21 – The Board approved the revisions to the Distance Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year. (Ayes: 7, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

CDPH Education Waiver Process – The Board approved initiation of the CDPH waiver process for all schools (GVOS, GVRS, GVTS) for the purpose of ELPAC and special education assessments. (Ayes: 7, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

August 19, 2020

Financial Update – The Board discussed the current fiscal implications of distance learning and budget revisions.

Reports –

- 10.1 Faculty Chair Report, Orchard:** The Orchard Faculty Chair, Zachary Phillips, submitted a written report and was absent during this time.
- 10.2 Faculty Chair Report, River:** The River Faculty Chair, Jenni Walthard, presented items of interest to the board.
- 10.3 Faculty Chair Report, Tahoe:** The Tahoe Faculty Chair, Beth Taylor, presented items of interest to the board.
- 10.4 Executive Director Report:** The Executive Director, Caleb Buckley, presented items of interest to the board.
- 10.5 Board Chair Report:** The Board of Trustees Chair, Heather Fraser-Hurt, presented items of interest to the board.

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 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Amala Easton.

Heather Fraser-Hurt, Chair

Date

Letter of Intent

Brittany Kilby

Board of Trustees
Golden Valley Charter School

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing to formally submit my name for nomination on the Board of Trustees for Golden Valley Charter School.

I am a parent of two children enrolled at Golden Valley River School. My daughter, Adirah, has been with Mrs. Pagan for the past two years and will continue on to First Grade with Mrs. Walthard. My son, Sterling, will begin TK in Fall of 2020 with Mrs. Pagan. I have volunteered in my daughters classroom for the past two years making broth, taking photographs, helping fill volunteering gaps when last minute issues arise, and setup/cleanup for larger events.

From 2016-2017, I was a board member for my daughter's parent participation preschool. My duties as the Membership Chair included organizing open house events, processing enrollment paperwork, and balancing the daily roster. Shortly after I joined the board, our director left and a hiring process began. When we were later unable to hire a candidate, we voted to sell the property to a non-profit who aligned with our philosophy.

I am currently in college to pursue a degree in Child Psychology and for the past two years have been working part-time for two Early Childhood Education professors while tutoring lab students in the Child Development Center at American River College. Because of my exposure to the Waldorf philosophy while taking classes, I sought out a Waldorf school for my children as I knew it would match with our personal values. This led me to Golden Valley Charter School.

Serving on the board would allow me to invest long-term in Golden Valley in a way that serving within a classroom does not. My previous board experience has equipped me with foundational knowledge of how a board operates and the consistent time required to fulfill the duties of a Trustee. I believe I can fulfill these duties and would be an asset to the Golden Valley Charter School Board of Trustees.

Respectfully,
Brittany Kilby

Tahoe Faculty Delegate Update
Beth Taylor
August 19, 2020

We in the Tahoe faculty have been working hard since the beginning of August to ensure that we are prepared and ready to welcome students on our first day of school. We agreed at our June faculty meeting, which Caleb was kind enough to attend, that due to both our move onto a new school campus and the foreseen challenges of returning to school in a pandemic, we would regather in August as a faculty to ensure a smooth start to our school year as we work through these new and significant challenges. As a faculty, we agreed to distribute supplies several weeks before school started, so that parents and students had the opportunity to meet teachers in person, sort out their supplies, and were ready to begin learning on the first day of school. We have heard from the other faculties that there was still significant troubleshooting to be done with computers and equipment after they were distributed on the first day of school, and had hoped to learn from and avoid that by beginning distribution and communication in August, several weeks prior to our first day.

We are now confused as to why we are not allowed to make these decisions of when to work and how to interact with our students as teachers. We are confused as to why we are being told we may not choose to work in August, when our intent is to ensure that we and our students are truly ready to begin the first day of school, and to ensure that those teacher-student connections are as strong as possible. We feel concerned that we may lose students if we are not connecting with them in-person during this month of August to bring encouragement, enthusiasm, and a genuine face-to-face connection to our young students.

We also feel confused around the issue of independent study. It seems clear that some students will be unable to participate in regular on-screen class for various reasons, and we do not understand why we cannot offer those students an alternative such as independent study, with daily phone check-ins with their teachers, rather than lose enrollment. We care deeply about our students and want to help them find the option that meets state standards as well as their, and their family's, needs. We are confused as to why this significant difference between independent study and distance learning, and the effect that not offering independent study to all of our students may have on our enrollment, is not being recognized. We are also wondering if Independent Study is being discouraged as an option at all three schools, or if Golden Valley is taking this approach only in Tahoe.

Finally, it has been suggested that those of us at Tahoe School who are teaching while actively in the process of completing our state credentials will not be offered contracts this year. These teachers, who are actively working on completing their credentials, are working legally under Short Term waivers or Intern Credentials, as well as applying for California waivers that have come into existence due to Covid shutdowns preventing teachers from completing the testing required to attain a California credential. Two weeks before contracts are scheduled to begin, and in the midst of a pandemic, this suggestion is extremely concerning. Does Golden Valley intend to hire new teachers within the next two weeks to replace teachers actively working on credentials, effectively firing those teachers? Or do they intend to withhold contracts and therefore payment until credentials are completed, which due to Covid is an unpredictable timeline? In this case, what happens to the health insurance of those teachers?

We at Tahoe are ready to begin working, connecting, distributing, and troubleshooting, as soon as we possibly can, in order to be able to bring our best and most creative energy to distance learning. We hope we can work together with the board and our sister schools to create the best and most positive experience possible for our children during this chaotic and stressful time.

Orchard Faculty Delegate Update

Zachary Phillips

August 19, 2020

Looking back through the last few weeks, as a distance learning plan was being developed after the collapse of a return to physical seat-based education, the Orchard faculty has been fluid and open-minded about our tasks, even as those tasks changed daily. We began to become frustrated as a faculty, having given up summer to begin this process but the real return began in August.

As of August 3, once the gears were all in motion, the need for collaboration has become very important to us all not just the Orchard faculty. The teachers have been working very closely with each other, pushing around ideas for policy, curriculum, and especially distance learning. The faculty passed a proposal to make all faculty meetings joint meetings—River and Orchard back together to collaborate. We are celebrating unity between the campuses to be able to glean from each other tips and tricks. While the joint meeting feels right for now, the individual campuses have separate tasks and some teachers are hoping for a reevaluation in the future, hoping to switch back to campus specific meetings.

The furlough of 33 colleagues has given us pause to realize where Golden Valley stands—vulnerable yet unified. To not comment on the furloughs would be irresponsible, it has affected all of us profoundly. The teachers understand the reasons. To remain viable as an educational organization, which is also a business, the furloughs were necessary. We at GV are looking to the light at the end of the tunnel when we can be a complete community of colleagues again.

Another light at the end of the tunnel was the first two days of school. It was an amazing reunion which began with the supplies pick up in the sweltering heat. The Orchard teachers were charged with excitement as we rolled bag after bag down to the loop to practice social-distancing while wearing masks, seeing car after car, filled with loving students and parents hoping to catch a glimpse of us, their teachers.

The next morning was an amazing first day of zooming that went off well. Nearly every teacher was beaming and had positive feedback for each other and shared a sense of hope. The words “we got this”, were on everyone’s lips. The students for the most part, were attentive and responsive and present. They took redirection well, they sat up in their “seats”, They tried to make it a class again because they want it so much. We have got this! Bonnie River’s presentation on Waldorf through distance learning helped many of us realize how to proceed.

We are continuing on with the mantra of ‘baby steps baby steps baby steps’, the hope we are all feeling is obvious and the reality of turning this into a special time is becoming more apparent.

I would like to acknowledge the new teachers—they are amazing teachers rolling with the punches with the added wrinkle of being new to Golden Valley. I want to acknowledge Jennifer Hoover for her dedication, organization, and clarity. None of us would be doing as well as we are without her support and guidance, and I am grateful for her years of service at Golden Valley.