

**MINUTES**  
**Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Governing Board Meeting**  
**Monday, May 14, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Michael Larrabee at 6:17p.m., on May 14, 2018 in Room 223 (science room) at Val Vista Academy, 4120 South Val Vista Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85297.

2. **Roll Call**

Present:

Michael Larrabee, Governing Board President  
Mike Dyer, Governing Board Vice-President  
Jason Stasiak, Val Vista Governing Board Secretary

Others Present:

Michael Sobieski, Dobson Governing Board Secretary  
Annie Gilbert, BCS Director of Finance  
Cheryl Parker, BCS Director of Student Services  
Dawne Winn, Dobson Principal  
Gaye Leo, Hearn Principal  
Deb Baca, Val Vista Principal  
Connie Johnston, Board Coordinator  
Natalie McKenney, Board Candidate (Dobson)  
Tara Yesenski, Board Candidate (Dobson)  
Karah Gagnon, Board Candidate (Val Vista)

Absent:

John Huppenthal, Governing Board Member  
Marcus Harrison, Hearn Governing Board Secretary

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by Michael Larrabee, the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion by Mike Dyer to approve the agenda. Second by Jason Sobieski. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **School Recognition/Mission Moment** - Deb Baca introduced Val Vista a second grade teacher who led her American Sign Language students in a signed Pledge of Allegiance, and clever ABC song.

Deb presented roses in appreciation to fellow principals and directors who have been so supportive this past year; Gaye Leo, Dawne Winn, Annie Gilbert, and Cheryl Parker.

6. **Call to the Public** – There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

7. **Val Vista Consent Agenda Items**

- 7.1 Previous Meeting Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of April 9, 2018; Executive Committee Meeting of April 4, 2018.
- 7.2 Enrollment/Attendance Update – Val Vista: 270
- 7.3 Personnel Items – None

Motion by Mike Dyer to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Jason Stasiak. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. **Val Vista Principal Monthly Report** – Deb Baca reported:

- 8.1 Mentoring of Val Vista Principal – No report
- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony activities went very well and there was a good representation from the community and Chamber of Commerce members.

Mike Sobieski inquired about the Red for Ed. teacher walk out. Deb had a liaison who kept her informed daily and communications were sent to the families. They received some very nice positive responses, and

felt lucky to be in such a supportive community. In response to question re: general mood on campus, Deb responded teachers are anxious to see the legislature be more active and prioritize. Faculty trusts we are working to take care of them.

- A Val Vista parent has been identified to assist with grant research and sourcing. They are looking for additional support in areas that fall under Cheryl Parker's umbrella. One of which is an ASU internship program where students earn course credits for writing grants.
- Val Vista outdoor signage was moved and reinstalled.
- Amanda DeNight put out a post to parents and the responses will be used for testimonials. Val Vista is targeting participants in summer camps being held on campus.
- Times for group tours have been set. A collateral table is set up and third grade and Kindergarten are key target areas.

#### 8.2 Spring Survey Strategic Action Plan

- Staff identified key areas to address (refer to pages 23-24 of packet). Science – fundraising money would go back into the classroom to enhance science curriculum. STEM coordinator identified hands-on science kits. A need for more course work/assemblies was identified.
- Safety/Security Facilities Manager will walk the campus, one time a month.
- Family survey – easy accessibility to front office was brought up as a point of concern.
- Teachers want to be trained to address specific and unique behavioral needs of students.
- Need to emphasize activities other than athletics so folks know they are available. The musical theatre program tends to be undersold. A parent commented: there is a perception that third party program providers are not as invested in the students. She would prefer and support more staff-run programs.

A question was asked re: school ratings. Are parents aware the rating systems can be different for every system? Be careful in how ratings are presented and discussed. We are working for that "A". Focus on continued growth, as the scores and configuration can change.

#### 8.3 New Flooring Update (cost analysis/comparison/life expectancies)

Deb is working with contractor to correct flooring – tiles coming up in excess. Tests have been conducted to determine why there is a problem. Flooring for the entire wing of the second floor will be torn up and new flooring put down. Carpet tiles have been proposed as an option. Gaye Leo cautioned carpeting is never a permanent solution. Board members encouraged Deb to take pictures of the flooring process and Michael Larrabee and Mike Sobieski agreed to review the contractor's plans.

9. **BCS Director of Student Support Services Monthly Report** – Cheryl Parker indicated the numbers are starting to level out. She will have a more in-depth report next month and she continues to look at

how we can reduce costs. Cheryl is looking into a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA) that can provide many of same services, but at less cost.

Mike Dyer – Suggested some type of feedback loop (could even be informal, perhaps quick poll out to families) to insure delivery of services are in line with expectations. Could even be informal.

## **10. BCS Director of Finance Monthly Report**

Mike Dyer made a motion to place Item 10.2 Property/Casualty insurance broker, Brenden Pollis' presentation to the top of the Finance Agenda. Annie Gilbert seconded. Motion carried.

### **10.1 Monthly Dashboards & Year-to-Date Financials**

Annie Gilbert reported good news—the Enrollment cap was approved retroactively for Hearn. The monies (\$110,000) are included in the budget. The refinance went through for Val Vista last week.

10.2 Property/Casualty insurance broker, Brenden Pollis, Western Region Leader with Gallagher, broker of record. He noted Workmen's Comp. costs rose significantly due to flooring defect claim. Gallagher is also working to revisit and reopen claim for the multipurpose room roof repair. Brenden offered to have their representative, Brenda come out. She is an excellent resource and they also have useful online training resources available to us. Annie noted we need to put a new policy in force by June 1, 2018.

Mike Dyer suggested the decision to approve be subject to final review of optional coverage levels as appropriate. He would like to see flood coverage looked into to decrease exposure.

### **10.3 Adopt Final Revisions to Current Year's Budget**

10.4 Proposed Budget Estimates for Next Year - We now have a much better cash flow projection.

### **10.5 Projected Additional Funding for FY19**

Annie indicated it is time for health benefit renewal and an RFP has gone out. A preferred carrier came in at lower rates (@\$100,000 less) and a better network which also has incentives.

Interim audits were conducted. We did well. Auditors will be back out in September.

Annie calculated potential salary increases. It was suggested we discuss salaries and consider making it a June Agenda item. Need to have a plan to inform staff with a unified message. How we convey is important. It is unifying as to everyone contributing and feeling as if treated equitably. Board to discuss and agree on what is affordable, plus figure in cost of benefits. All pieces need to be considered as part of the equation.

Annie was asked to expand the salary model with different scenarios. Ball Charter Schools has always considered ethics/equity and stretched to the benefit of the teachers. Shoring up curriculum and facilities benefit all in the long run. Annie Gilbert noted a decision and should be decided in June if the Governing Board does not meet in July.

**11. Planning and Development Committee Report** – Mike Dyer welcomed three Board candidates. Mike thanked the candidates for sitting in on the Planning & Development phone call. Mike Sobieski introduced them and invited each to introduce selves:

- Karah Gagnon - Val Vista parent, community member in banking sector, member of AZ Charter Schools Association.

- Tara Yesenski – Dobson parent, works at ASU Poly.—athletics, intramurals, summer kids camps, and very active in Chandler school softball league
  - Natalie Yesenski – Dobson parent, moved from Kyrene district, in legal profession--insurance claims
- Mike Dyer reported the September 29, 2018 Fall Work Session is coming together and on track.

**12. Digital Learning Committee Report** - Cheryl Parker reported she is compiling exit feedback for those who used the tablets. She will review survey findings over the summer as a tool for engagement/recruitment in the community and is looking for interested work group participants. She hopes to use the momentum of the new school year.

**13. ASBCS Contact: Action Item** – Remove Karin Meilstrup (Dobson/Val Vista) and Debra Baca (Dobson) as Representatives on AZ Charter Board Website (ASBCS)  
Motion made by Mike Dyer. Second by Jason Stasiak. All in favor. Motion carried.

**14 Discussion and possible action item** - Approve Property and Casualty/Liability for Next Year.

Motion was made at 6:25 p.m. by Mike Dyer to recess to Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item 15, the Director of Finance and Senior Director of Finance and Operations job descriptions. Second by Jason Sobieski. All in favor. Motion carried.

**15 Discussion and possible action item:** Director of Finance job description and Senior Director of Finance and Operations job description

Two positions are being proposed and job descriptions are being reviewed. One is a full-time Director of Finance and a part time Senior Director of Finance and Operations. Mike Dyer indicated we are ready to proceed with the Director of Finance as the refinance is finalized. Gaye Leo, will work with the Planning and Development Committee to post the position. Annie Gilbert will remain on board and move into the Senior Director of Finance and Operations part time position.

**16 Board Nominations of Officers, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs**

Ballots were passed and tallied for Selection of Officers for 2018-2019. Results:

President – Michael Larrabee

Vice President – Mike Dyer

Secretary – Jason Stasiak

Member-at-Large – John Huppenthal

Planning & Development Chair – Mike Dyer

**Executive Session** - Motion made by Mike Dyer to recess to Executive Session. Jason Sobieski seconded.  
Recessed 9:40 p.m.

**17** Convened at 6:25 p.m.

**18 Reconvene Regular Board Meeting** – Meeting was reconvened at 10:18 p.m.

**19 Future Agenda Items** – None

**20 Adjournment**

Motion made by Mike Dyer to adjourn. Jason Sobieski seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

The next BCS (Val Vista) Board Meeting is June 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Hearn Academy.

Approved by Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Governing Board

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Board President

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Date