

MINUTES
Ball Charter Schools (Hearn) Governing Board Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by John Huppenthal at 6:15 p.m. on March 2, 2020 in the Multipurpose Room at Hearn Academy, 17606 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85023.

2. **Roll Call**

Present:

John Huppenthal, Governing Board President
Mike Sobieski, Governing Board Vice President
Michael Larrabee, Hearn Governing Board
Amy Gurtler, Hearn Governing Board

Others Present:

Tara Yesenski, Dobson Governing Board Secretary
Mike Dyer, Dobson Governing Board
Karah Gagnon, Val Vista Governing Board Secretary
Devin Grigg, Val Vista Governing Board
Dawne Winn, Dobson Principal
Gaye Leo, Hearn Principal
Debra Baca, Val Vista Principal
Parker Galope, Director of Student Support Services (by Phone)

Absent:

Natalie McKenney, Dobson Governing Board
Marcus Harrison, Hearn Governing Board Secretary
Rhonda Donnelly, Val Vista Governing Board
Annie Gilbert, Sr. Director of Finance and Operations

3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** John Huppenthal led the group in the Pledge.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Amy Gurtler to approve the agenda of the Ball Charter Schools (Hearn) Regular Board meeting. Mike Sobieski Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, M. Larrabee, A. Gurtler). Motion carried.

5. **School Recognition/Mission Moment**

Gaye introduced Mike Megrew, Campus Coordinator and Ed Traud, Teacher. They had opportunity to tell the Board about themselves. Mike has a professional sports background and has been coaching at Hearn. Ted has been working with the administrative team and was a former page at the Capital. That experience allowed the Hearn students to tour the Capital.

The Third Grade teaching staff consisting of Gwen Engel, Brittany Murphy, Patty Skains, and SPED teacher Autumn Chacon presented. They highlighted curriculum, testing, and special projects and events. Ms. Chacon provides SPED inclusion services and noted the inclusion program builds competence one child at a time. Two Board members who have had children in the program commented on how it had absolutely helped their child. Kathy Griner and Mary Kennedy were recognized for their invaluable contributions to the students, as it "takes a village" to teach.

6. **Call to the Public:** No members of the public were present.

7. **Hearn Consent Agenda Items:**

7.1 Previous Meeting Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of February 10, and Executive Committees of February 26, 2020.

7.2 Enrollment/Attendance Update – Hearn 636 (666)

7.3 Personnel Items - None

Motion by Amy Gurtler to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Mike Sobieski Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, M. Larrabee, A. Gurtler). Consent Agenda approved.

8. Hearn Principal Monthly Report – *Gaye Leo*

Gaye called attention to the Galileo output presented in the packet. Board members commented about the informative presentation and impressive Third Grade rigorous curriculum.

9. BCS Director of Student Support Services Monthly Report – *Parker Galope*

Parker reported by phone about SPED packet information which noted signed 2019 Education Bills Affecting Student Support Services. Of note was dyslexia screening/training, and suicide prevention training.

John suggested suicide prevention training be placed as a future agenda item. It is important that all teachers and personnel who interact with kids know how to recognize and engage positively. Training is aimed for those working with students in grades 6 through 12. Board members suggested it would be prudent to integrate the training with 5th grade teachers.

10. Senior Director of Finance and Operations Monthly Report – *Annie Gilbert*

10.1 Finance Director Report Summary – March 2020

10.2 Ball Dashboard – FY20 through January

- Dobson Dashboard
- Hearn Dashboard
- Val Vista Dashboard

10.3 BCS Consolidated Balance Sheet at 1-31-2020

10.4 BCS Consolidated Income Statement at 1-31-2020

10.5 Tax Credit History

Above financial materials presented in the Governing Board packet and no additional report given.

11. Planning and Development Committee Report – *Karah Gagnon*

11.1 Spring Work Session – June 3, 2020

11.2 BCS Educator 2020 Kickoff

11.3 Committee Chair Transition to Karah Gagnon

Karah reported that Amanda DeNight will be joining the calls to report on marketing activities and accomplishments. Acquisition/Expansion has been added to the Committee—profiling how a school makes it through the initial quantitative, cost, and efficiency standpoint.

As food for thought, John recommended principals identify an ambassador from their campus, who can be prepared to serve as an advance team. He indicated there is risk in moving forward and expanding. There is also risk in not moving forward. Expanding can be stressful and a very conscious decision to expand thought through. Is there complete support? Are we ready to take this step? Karah cautioned to make sure we have the infrastructure in place for expansion. Those who are most successful in merging ahead have a solid foundation for growth.

Gaye was asked to talk about expansion. She stated we need to go where there are kids, which is pivotal. Amy and Tara both noted several new neighborhoods of family homes as well as expanding business plans which will bring in even more families.

This is a good time to come out and move forward. Do not set benchmarks so high we lose out. The current three schools must be running smoothly. We are close and need to be looking at best practices

and efficiencies. John encouraged principals to share thought and feedback with Annie for inclusion in the expansion/acquisition plan.

An Action Item needs to be put forward that gives direction/metrics to the principals as how we move forward. Michael suggested a checklist would be most helpful. What is the criteria, what would a self-sustaining campus footprint look like?

12. Digital Learning Committee Report – Parker Galope

Parker noted she is awaiting feedback from the teachers re: student monitoring software. Recommendations are being transferred to the Curriculum and Systems Committee. The Digital Learning Committee is looking into data privacy concerns.

John requested this Committee begin to grapple with SPED delivery mechanisms, videotaping in the classroom, and teacher protocol.

13. Curriculum and Systems Committee Report – Mike Sobieski

Mike reported the current meeting minutes and Curriculum Inventory are contained in the packet. Committee expects to have the BCS website available in order to provide feedback at the March 26 meeting.

The Committee members had a thought-provoking conversation of how the world view of Science/Social Studies plays into the BCS culture of presenting a multi-faceted world view. As holistic educators, BCS wants to empower students so they can be discerning, make their own decisions, learn to think and explore, articulate their opinions, and become life-long learners!

Mike encouraged Board candidates to choose a committee they are passionate about and that peaks interest. Karah asked the question as to how far out are we regarding standard curriculum for BCS? Devin asked how individual Board members feel as we are nearing the time to become “all in” for course of action and look into the big picture with uniformity and best practice.

If we are adopting new systems, we need to be going down the same path and must have consistent products that are part of our brand. It is a challenge to measure growth if all systems are different. All Ball Charter Schools must be at the same level of excellence and able to support teachers. Best practices suggest power users for better integration success. Several expressed difficulty even with the same system and version differences. BCS Board wishes to have autonomy and retain campus individuality. John cautioned: let’s not abandon diagnostic tools currently in use, we can always add to them. Products chosen will be vetted and amazing! Be mindful of resistance to change—give teachers ample time to think/change. Principals are encouraged to dispense the message to their teams that change is going to happen.

We could be thinking about setting a seven year plan, indicating we will be on the same path. Karah commented that sooner, rather than later would be helpful. The expansion school will be the blueprint for the future. Food for thought: consistency is important, but autonomy should not be discounted.

14. Academic Excellence Report: Discussion of Intervention/Acceleration Opportunities (Summer School Plans, etc.).

The principals reported: Hearn will not be providing summer school, Dobson will conduct summer school, and Val Vista has not offered a summer school in the past.

15. Discussion and Possible Action item: Approval of additional \$2,000 for adult bathroom.

Gaye indicated the bid had to be revised. Amy Gurtler motioned to approve. Mike Sobieski Second. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, M. Larrabee, A. Gurtler). All in favor.

16. Action Item: Potential of Coronavirus Challenges for Schools

Subject was discussed and information regarding a webinar on March 4, hosted by the Arizona

Department of Health Services will be distributed. It was suggested the Board send out a communication to the families as to our plan and eliminating the "what ifs." Annie was asked to draft the letter. Devin called attention to an excellent website by Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent of Walla Walla Public Schools and how they are communicating the health message. Dawne noted she had been sending information out to the parents. Gaye suggested being careful as to how the message is scripted and offered the assistance of Jennifer Compo, RN on the Hearn staff. Discussion followed encouraging teachers to use this as an opportunity to teach how germs spread and the importance of washing hands.

17. Future Agenda Items – *John Huppenthal*

None in addition to those noted in the Minutes.

18. Adjournment

Motion by Am Gurtler to adjourn. Michael Larrabee Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, M. Larrabee, A. Gurtler). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

The next BCS (Hearn) Board Meeting is scheduled for April 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Dobson Academy.

Approved by Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Governing Board

Board President

Date