

MINUTES
Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Governing Board Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by John Huppenthal at 6:01 p.m. on February 10, 2020 in the Science Room at Val Vista Academy, 4120 S. Val Vista Dr., Gilbert, AZ 85297.

2. **Roll Call**

Present:

John Huppenthal, Governing Board President
Mike Sobieski, Governing Board Vice President
Karah Gagnon, Val Vista Governing Board Secretary
Devin Grigg, Val Vista Governing Board
Rhonda Donnelly, Val Vista Governing Board

Others Present:

Tara Yesenski, Dobson Governing Board Secretary
Natalie McKenney, Dobson Governing Board
Michael Larrabee, Hearn Governing Board
Dawne Winn, Dobson Principal
Gaye Leo, Hearn Principal
Debra Baca, Val Vista Principal
Annie Gilbert, Sr. Director of Finance and Operations
Parker Galope, Director of Student Support Services

Absent:

Mike Dyer, Dobson Governing Board
Marcus Harrison, Hearn Governing Board Secretary
Amy Gurtler, Hearn Governing Board

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

4. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion by Mike Sobieski to approve the agenda of the Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Regular Board Meeting. Karah Gagnon Second. All in favor (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, K. Gagnon, D. Grigg, R. Donnelly). Motion carried.

5. **School Recognition/Mission Moment**

Deb Baca shared a video of an Adoption Day celebration at Val Vista for a young student. The entire school celebrated the event, along with the Cheer Squad, dancing students, and Channel 3 TV.

Deb had been reflecting upon what sets Val Vista apart from the competition. Parents as well as prospective parents touring the school kept repeating the same thing; "It feels like family here." Deb included additional comments in her Principal's Monthly Campus Report which reflected focus on community and the Val Vista family.

6. **Call to the Public:** John invited Dawne and Gaye to introduce the Board member candidates for their respective schools who were attending their first Governing Board meeting. Dawne introduced Todd Piluga, who serves on the Advisory Board, and Gaye introduced Kyle Malcomson, a local pastor and U.S. Navy veteran, who has even served as a substitute at Hearn.

7. **Val Vista Consent Agenda Items:**

7.1 Previous Meeting Minutes – Regular Board Meeting of January 13, and Executive Committees of February 5, 2020.

7.2 Enrollment/Attendance Update – Val Vista 310 (327)

7.3 Personnel Items - None

Motion by Mike Sobieski to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Karah Gagnon Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, K. Gagnon, D. Grigg, R. Donnelly). Consent Agenda approved.

8. Val Vista Principal Monthly Report – Debra Baca

Deb reported she has been knee deep in Title I information. She has been doing a lot of training and working on enrollment and recruitment in preparation for next year, which will be her fourth. Deb was very happy to announce that for the first time Val Vista is about ready to have a wait list for Kindergarten! She also reported the Open House was a fabulous and free family event which included a Luau.

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

Parker reported SPED numbers are steady and evening out at this time of year. She included percentages and growth trends in her report. She also separated out growth between the three schools. As a reminder, the State averages 12.7% and our schools range between 8-20%. Mike Sobieski suggested a footnote of the State average be placed on the reports.

John reminded the Board that the Parent Survey is coming up and we have capacity to separate out SPED responses.

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

10.1 Finance Director Report Summary

10.2 Ball Dashboard – (Actual through December 31, 2019)

- Dobson Dashboard
- Hearn Dashboard
- Val Vista Dashboard

10.3 BCS Consolidated Balance Sheet at 12-31-2019

10.4 BCS Combined Profit and Loss through 12-31-2019

10.5 Historical Teacher Increases and FY21 Budget Assumptions

10.6 Proposed FY21 Teacher Increase

10.7 Consolidated FY21 Budgets

Annie pointed out the Consolidated Dashboard on page. 31, indicating some funds from Dobson will go to Val Vista for debt forgiveness at either the May or June meeting, so all three schools will meet the metrics.

Annie reviewed the proposal for teacher increases for next year, as it had been indicated they would receive Letters of Agreement prior to spring break. Focusing on projections, page 38 gave examples of the proposed increase. Annie is proposing 3% plus a fixed amount of \$1,000. John indicated he is comfortable with her recommendation.

11. Planning and Development Committee Report – Mike Dyer

11.1 Spring Work Session – April 3, 2020

11.2 BCS Crest Letterhead and Email Signature

Karah Gagnon presented the report and indicated Herb Paine will be facilitating the Spring Work Session. Mike Dyer and Annie will meet with him in March to solidify the Work Session Agenda.

The BCS Website is on track. Thinking forward, clarification will be forthcoming as to how the Marketing and Enrollment Director role will be utilized so as to liaison with the Committee, and not duplicate efforts. Annie will take care of this and indicated specifics of the role are still being developed. It was suggested Amanda DeNight be invited to attend the meetings.

The Admin. meeting is in two weeks and a unified kick-off theme will be discussed and recommendation prepared for the Board.

Rhonda raised the question of a Board 101 Training. A packet of useful materials and Board buddy system were suggested. The presentation materials from the attorney's PowerPoint presentation at the Fall Work Session may be shared internally.

12. Digital Learning Committee Report – Parker Galope

The Committee met on the 16th. Teachers are up and running with Google Classroom and G Suite. Hearn uses SoftLink. The Committee is comparing two very similar providers. One is cloud based, one is land based. We need to get down to essence of the decision and make the best choice for BCS's future and to assure we are on one platform. Parker supports one system for all three schools as much easier for training purposes and manuals, etc.

Rhonda suggested points to consider are: which has the least operational issues; is redundancy built in; and is everyone served well. Should process through these issues together and intentional recommendations made which make BCS stronger/better together. John suggested we all get on board with supporting one path. Teachers normally want newer/faster. This conversation needs to be held sooner rather than later.

Tara Yesenski recommended this systems item be moved to the Curriculum and Systems Committee, as Dobson and Val Vista do not currently have. It was suggested Tara and Parker be on the Committee and work with campus systems administrators.

13. Curriculum and Systems Committee Report – Mike Sobieski

Mike reiterated that this Committee is encouraging a culture that is comprehensive and can include alternative viewpoints and support different perspectives. Members are encouraged to provide input. However, not all suggestions can be implemented. Amanda and Rhonda are serving as the website content conduits.

Amanda was on the meeting call and provided an update on the BCS website redesign. Mike indicated there will be a VIP screening and then the system will be put out to the general populace. Mike thought the Crests implemented throughout looked polished.

Mike suggested the Curriculum Inventory sheet which is reviewed at each meeting be included in the Board Packet. Connie will include.

14. Academic Excellence Report: No Report for February

15. Discussion and Possible Action item: Review of 2013-2014 Strategic Planning documents.

Annie recommended it would be best to wait on this discussion item until after the Spring Work Retreat meeting with facilitator Herb Paine.

16. Discussion and Possible Action Item: Letters of Agreement and Proposed Certified Teacher Salaries.

Karah Gagnon moved to implement Annie's recommendation of 3% plus a fixed amount of \$1,000. Devin Grigg Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, K. Gagnon, D. Grigg, R. Donnelly). Motion carried.

17. Action Item: Clarification of Officer Election Results from June 2019 for Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. *Motion to accept newly-elected Board President, John Huppenthal, and Vice President, Mike Sobieski, as Charter Representatives for Dobson, Hearn, and Val Vista AND to remove the former President and Vice President, Michael Larrabee and Mike Dyer as Charter Representatives.*

Devin motioned to accept the clarification as worded above. Karah Gagnon Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, K. Gagnon, D. Grigg, R. Donnelly). Motion carried.

18. Discussion: Strategic Planning for Teacher Development, bringing together for highest quality

John suggested we hold back on this discussion item (how we choose professional development for teachers) at this meeting.

19. Discussion: Expansion/Acquisition

The topic was expanded to include Acquisition. Proposed benchmarks that could be tweaked and refined were discussed. John indicated that thinking positively, this could be a cash flow, rather than drain, especially if planning is kept very tight. This item will be discussed at the next Planning and Development Committee, vetted, and then shared with the Board.

Several Board members expressed a desire to know more about what is happening and the process. For the next meeting perhaps a historical presentation on the process using Val Vista and Hearn as examples would be useful. Essentially Expansion 101. A best practices and lessons learned would help in understanding. What do we want next school to look like and how do we go about it? Items to include would be Grants, site selection, planning, benchmarks and best practices. Board members also wanted to know how Amanda's marketing plan would mesh into.

Tara asked why BCS has not journeyed into the High School segment. John indicated he is open to that when we have @6-10 schools. Perhaps a needs survey is called for. Discussions on this topic will continue over time.

20. Future Agenda Items – The following items will be added:

- Strategic Planning Documents
- Kick-off Planning Update: Theme, Date, etc.
- Expansion/Acquisition recommendations from Planning and Development Committee

21. Adjournment

Motion by Karah Gagnon to adjourn. Rhonda Donnelly Second. All in favor. (J. Huppenthal, M. Sobieski, K. Gagnon, D. Grigg, R. Donnelly). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

The next BCS (Val Vista) Board Meeting is scheduled for March 2, at 7:00 p.m. at Hearn Academy.

Approved by Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista) Governing Board

Board President

Date