

Carbon Valley Academy Meeting Minutes

Joint Board Meeting of St. Vrain Valley School District and CVA Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Called to Order at 6:07 p.m.

Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attendees:

Board Members – Tony Carey, Merrie Harper, Stephanie Kajcienski, Wes LaVanchy, Monique Miller, Anne-Marie Nichols (Dustin Jones absent)

Principal – Chad Auer

Visitors – St. Vrain Valley School District Board of Education (Sandi Searls, Ed Smith, Robert Auman, Dori Von Lone, Rod Schmidt, and Merrill Bohaning), Sherrie Stevens Carter, staff, Dr. Randy Zila, Superintendent, Paula Aven Gladych of the Daily Times-Call newspaper, and members of the general public – Nancy Wyatt and Andie Carpenter

Meeting with SVVSD Board of Education:

- Introductions
- Presentation on the opening of CVA by Chad
 - Challenges:
 - Construction
 - Access to the building by staff for training and classroom setup
 - Pickup/drop off
 - Did our enrolled families pick the right school for their children? Do they support CVA's mission?
 - Successes
 - Over 5000 volunteer hours
 - 100+ on the waiting list
 - Community support for Ben Steadman's fundraiser
 - NWEA MAPS – testing starting point
 - National Core Knowledge recognition – teacher presentation at conference
 - Character Traits and turning in kids for good behavior
 - Coffee talks
 - Maintaining focus
 - Activities and Plans
 - CVA Board – development of strong strategic plan (2006-2010)
 - High School – start 9th grade in 2008 (to be included in charter renewal)
 - Virtual School Program – pilot to start with 40 students in 2006/7 school year
- Discussion of Virtual School Program
 - Presently enough interest for 40 students (K-7)
 - Will be offered to the families on the waiting list
 - Same curriculum – Core Knowledge, Open Court, etc.
 - Utilize our technology infrastructure
 - A teacher who is comfortable with a “one room classroom” setting (i.e., multiple grades) and technology will be hired to work with virtual students and their parents
 - Each family receives one computer and printer – computer used as one form of communication between CVA and parent/student via email, Google Talk (IM), etc.
 - Regional and local reach
 - Student and parent will be at CVA ½ to 1 day every two weeks to:
 - Build a sense of community
 - Participate in PE, art, music, workshops and extracurricular activities
 - Parent training
 - CSAP and NWEA MAPS testing
 - Funding – state classifies these students as “virtual students” for PPO funding
 - Potential to go to 100-200 students depending on bandwidth, community interest, etc.
 - Evaluation (virtual vs. “in school” student comparisons)
 - CSAP scores
 - NWEA MAPS scores
 - Retention of students

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- Parent surveys
- Questions by SVVSD Board of Education
 - What is the CVA Board concerned most about?
 - Reply was that the CVA Board is very confident about the future of the school, our strategic plan, the strength and talent of our board members, and the excellence of our staff and principal.
 - Hiring – what kind of turnover have we seen?
 - Some turnover and reshuffling of staff members. To be expected our first year and didn't effect our students.
 - Highly qualified teacher status?
 - Almost all of our teachers are licensed and the few who aren't are working towards their teaching license as stipulated in their contracts with a clear deadline for achieving this goal.
 - Pay for performance?
 - Salary increases will depend on performance in CVA's second year of operation.
 - Per our strategic plan, CVA believes in academic excellence. To achieve this, our goal is to have the highest quality teachers. We believe the best way to measure this is by having the highest average teacher salaries in the district.
 - How have we identified and reached out to "high risk" students?
 - Before school opened we reached out to the local community via direct mail pieces, publicity, open houses, enrollment sessions, etc.
 - All students are welcome at CVA – we do not hand pick our children.
 - What does CVA need from SVVSD?
 - Seek permission to move with the Virtual School Pilot Program (Chad will provide hardcopies of plan to the Board of Education)
 - Guidance on adding high school to CVA
 - The Board of Education asks that CVA aim for a separate application due to the different dynamics and needs of a high school program.
 - They would like to see a detailed plan discussing curriculum, programs, site, building, etc.
 - The Board of Education does not see a need for a separate board or entity.
 - Both parties need to continue this discussion, including review and planning.
 - Communication
 - In CVA's view, communication has been good once we found the right person to talk to.

Motions Approved:

1-Approval of meeting minutes for 2/13/06

Moved by Stephanie seconded by Monique

Votes: Tony – yes, Merrie – yes, Dustin – absent, Steph – yes, Wes – yes, Monique – yes, AM – yes

2-Approval of Consent Agenda

- Revised Uniform Policy – Starting in the 2006/7 School Year
- Revised Committee Policy

Moved by Wes, seconded by Merrie

Passed by unanimous decision

Recognition Thank Yous:

- Fundraising Committee – Heidi Davis, Anna Tucker, Bryan & Stacy Weigard, Carrie Wright, Tammy Lewis, and Linda Ramey – for their hard work on the Year to Cheer Silent Auction
- Stacy Judson for all her hard work on the Harvard Room makeover
- Please stop by Tony's office to sign the thank you cards.

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New Business:

- School Start – This is our last year with them. They will perform an evaluation of the school. In the future we can purchase services, if needed. Ken Wright will come to present evaluation. Tony will send around new agreement.
- YMCA – Their board has agreed to revenue sharing – details to be worked out. They will present to the CVA board in the future about how to handle students who aren't in their program but haven't been picked up by 3:20 or arrive too early to school.

Next Board Meeting – 3/20/06

Board Packet Attachments – Reports

- Minutes 2/13/06 (to be posted on website)
- Revised Uniform Policy (to be posted on website)
- Revised Committee Policy (to be posted on website)
- Bursar's Report (Tony) below:

Team: A quick update –

Insurance:

Last weeks meeting with the District went very well:

We are insured through the Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool except for Workman's Comp.

We will be receiving a refund from Hartford for premiums paid whilst other coverage was in effect.

Hartford will continue to provide Workman's Comp. coverage.

Audrey Shon (Risk Programs Coordinator) will be sending quotes to reduce our current deductibles.

I have asked Mike Ripken to act as our consultant in insurance matters. We will be meeting this week, or next, to work on these deductible changes as well as next year's policy.

Next year's policy proposal will be presented, by Mike, at a Board meeting.

Harvard Room:

Stop by and check out the new look :)

Thanks to Stacy Judson for coordinating the redecorating project, and thanks to Merrie for the paint donation. Wireless internet access is also now available.

CCTV:

Installation has started, we will be starting with a 4 camera system located in these areas:

Lobby

Vehicle Exit

South playground.

East field.

Thanks to Anthony Recce for his continued hard work in this area, hopefully the system will be operational within 2 weeks.

Fire System:

West Electric will be working on the fire system problems (zone malfunctions) Tuesday, this appears to be a warranty issue.

School Start:

I have, so far, been unable to meet with Terry. I have requested a phone conference with Ken Wright.

Summer Construction:

No news since the last update.

Golf Tournament:

Still trying to schedule a meeting with Advantage.

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See you all (Dustin excepted) March 1st.
Tony