

Carbon Valley Academy Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday, October 2, 2006 – Special Meeting

Attendance:

Board Members present: Merrie Harper, Dustin Jones, Jason Jones, Monique Miller, Anne-Marie Nichols, Wes Lavanchy

President Wes Lavanchy called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Merrie Harper made a motion for the board to enter executive session. Motion was seconded by Jason Jones and approved by unanimous consent.

Executive session was closed at 7:06 p.m.

Stephanie Kajcienski made a request to speak with the board and was invited into the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The following is a summary of her remarks:

- Mrs. Kajcienski reported that she had spoken with Principal Chad Auer concerning her observations of some of the ongoing issues at Carbon Valley Academy. She stated it was her desire to inform the board of those issues because she had been a board member and is now a staff member and therefore has a unique perspective.
- Regarding the reported problems in the lunchroom, Mrs. Kajcienski would like to see better supervision for students during lunch, and clearer communication with the CVA community about the various responsibilities and roles of teachers, staff members and volunteers involved in the lunch program. While she does manage the lunch program, she is not in any way directly responsible for student supervision during lunch.
- She would also like to see a stronger sense of community among teachers and staff members – with a spirit of ‘doing what it takes’ to make things work for our students
- Mrs. Kajcienski expressed a concern that some teachers are not following the dress code and parents are noticing; She believes that parents’ perceptions are that ‘nothing is being done’ and that ‘[the administration and board] doesn’t care.’
- She also said there is concern among the staff about school security and she would like to see further security measures implemented.
- Finally, Mrs. Kajcienski shared her belief that the board of directors, administration and staff of CVA does care about the success of the school and she hopes that by renewing a sense of community amongst the entire CVA family we will get through any ‘growing pains’ together and will ultimately achieve the vision that the founding board put in place for CVA.

At 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Kajcienski left the meeting, and after a short recess, Principal Chad Auer and Business Manager Tony Carey joined the meeting for further discussion of the issues raised at the September 27, 2006 meeting.

Principal Auer stated that he believes in a ‘parent/principal team’ model when administering consequences for student behavior and that the ‘parent loop’ is a very important component of our student’s education, as evidenced by school policy. He also said that he is committed to making CVA a high-discipline school.

Carbon Valley Academy Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Monday, October 2, 2006 – Special Meeting – page 2

Mr. Carey addressed the issue of school culture and believes we can improve in our efforts to build a positive sense of community amongst the staff, teachers, administration, students and parents at CVA, as well as in the community at large.

The board reached general consensus on the following:

- There is not a 'bullying' problem at CVA, but rather isolated cases of inappropriate behavior by some students
- The board supports Principal Auer and believes he is dealing with discipline issues appropriately. Each situation is inherently unique and may require the principal to use his professional discretion while adhering to CVA's discipline code.
- The board feels it is inappropriate and a potential violation of individuals' privacy to comment publicly on individual discipline situations
- The board is pleased to see further security and safety measures implemented at CVA
- It is the responsibility of the principal, not the board of directors, to make personnel decisions on a day-to-day basis at CVA. The board has reviewed the staff evaluation procedures that are in place and finds them to be sound.
- Finally, the board would like to move forward with plans to improve school culture, championing efforts to emphasize character development, strong academics, school safety, and a rededication to excellence.
- The board of directors agreed to issue a formal statement in a press release prior to the next regular board meeting on October 18, 2006. Secretary Merrie Harper agreed to summarize the board's conclusions and distribute a draft to the board for comments. President Wes Lavanchy will finalize and send out the statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next regular meeting: October 18, 2006 6:30 p.m. in the Harvard Room at CVA