

Valley Inquiry Charter School

November Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024 | In-Person Meeting, 6:30 PM

Board Members

Board President & Chair	Cammi Menager
Vice Chair	Terry Rohse
Treasurer	Stephen Staten
Secretary	BJ Foster
At-Large	Ed Austin
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
At-Large	Vacant
Non-Voting Member	Lacey McNay

Meeting Agenda Minutes

6:35pm Call to Order

6:36pm Approving Meeting Minutes

September minutes: Terry moves to accept as written; Stephen seconds motion.
Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

October minutes: Terry moves to accept as written; Stephen seconds motion.
Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain

November special session minutes: Ed moves to accept as written; Terry seconds motion. Vote: 3 yes / 0 no / 2 abstain

6:37pm Public Comment

Reuben: Status of board member applications?

Steve: Friday and Monday slots for interviews (5 interested; 2 community members, 3 parents)

Reuben: If I was a community member with no connection to the school I would have moved on at this point.

6:38pm

Principal's Report

Lacey:

- After school clubs are underway
 - M/W GRASSP Soccer (4th & 5th)
 - Tue Chess Club (2nd-5th)
 - Thur LOSAF - League of Super Awesome Friends (TAG)
 - Thur Multicultural club (K-5)
 - Fri Robotics Club (K-5)
- Inquiry clubs during school hours on Wednesdays starting after winter break
 - Talked about chess, art, music, movement, cooking and science, but not yet finalized
- Lots of learning happens outside of the traditional classroom setting
- Heineman Classroom Book sets are here
 - Parent volunteers helped open, sort, stamp and sticker new books
- IB Attribute of the Month Assemblies
 - A time to come together and celebrate and recognize students who have displayed our IB attribute of the month
- Successful jogathon partnership between PTC and school, proceeds split, \$9,837 raised, will be put towards hands on experiences.
 - Ashley (parent): What was last year's fundraiser spent on?
 - Cammi: Jogathon last year was spent on soccer goals
 - Steve: Geodome the prior year
- Subbing update: Have signed agreement with WESD, subs are coming, first time at our school, but shared that they will be back
- Water update:
 - A few parts in our well water pump had to be replaced last week. SKPS got the right people out to make the repairs in a timely manner. Since we lost water pressure, we did have to have our water tested

before it was cleared for drinking. The results came back clear today.
Our water is safe to drink!

- Had portable toilets in place but didn't need to use them for very long
- Steve: If we owned the building, do we have procedures and contacts in place for resolving a situation like this quickly?
- Lacey: Not developed yet, but would plan to if we move in that direction
- ESSER/SIA Grant
 - Accountability/reporting with ODE finalized by Nov. 30th.
 - Should have the full reimbursement report at the next board meeting
- STEAM Push-in Lessons
 - Lacey rotating every other week for STEAM lessons in each class. K-2 one week, then 3-5 the next week.

6:53pm

IB Report

Stacy Boost:

- Central Idea - statement that frames the transdisciplinary Unit of Inquiry. Provides teachers with structure. Globally significant.
- Very different from traditional teaching; global planning instead of wrote curriculum. Offers students opportunities to explore commonalities of the human experience. Promotes understanding, broad enough to offer multiple lies of inquiry. Supported by key concepts, relevant, engaging.
- Approaches to teaching: focused on teamwork and collaboration, removes barriers, informed by assessment, focused on conceptual understanding.
- Feeling that it can be challenging to meet state standards under an IB philosophy. However, it will be possible. State Standards need to be addressed throughout the year.
 - Aligning parts of year with state standards, lots of planning, a bit overwhelming but also very exciting.

Lacey: have PLC time mapped out, occasionally doing meetings during contract hours after school to check in and collaborate.

Reuben: What are contract hours?

Lacey: 7:30am-3:30pm.

Lacey: Have had some teachers attend trainings

Stephen: Helped manage accreditation in another context, tools were available to help. Anything similar for IB?

Stacy: There are state standard tools and some resources for IB

Lacey: "Toddle" is solution that can incorporate Synergy, IB lesson plans, templates, behavior, grades, parent contact... but somewhat expensive at around \$12k/year.

Cammi: Portland IB school indicated they used it and was helpful.

Lacey: Seems like something worth looking into, but not sure how it interfaces with state standards.

Stacy: Do we have to stick with SKSD platforms?

Steven: Looser than you might think but there are standards.

Stacy: It's nice to be able to transfer student records in/out with SKSD, but Toddle is very nice

Lacey: Had 3-day IB training, teachers are hungry for more, have some free online resources. Stacy has some required trainings as does Lacey due to their positions, were with international community of teachers.

7:07pm

Staffing Update

Lacey:

- Had one IA resign, hired Ashley Carmichael to fill that position, all other staffing stable
- Enrollment: We are at 150 enrollment currently
 - As of 11/18/2024: K 22 / 1st 26 / 2nd 25 / 3rd 27 / 4th 27 / 5th 23
 - Ms. Anna is working to fill remaining spots
- Have been told there is a postcard campaign to try to get kinder applications in past, may want to look into expanding to other grades.

7:10pm

Treasurer's Report

Stephen: Nothing significant to report on financial side.

7:11pm

Meeting Technology

Terry: Do we want a camera? Do we want audio only on Zoom? (Asked Reuben his opinion). Do you need video?

Reuben: Yes, or you won't know who is speaking

Terry: Consultant Steve here to discuss options.

Steve (consultant, not board): Audio is most important issue, but room space might need addressed to consolidate the area for hearing to be easier.

- Zoom is a great option for a small group, but can be a problem as someone else can take over the meeting.

- Could have everyone on their own laptop, in some ways easier.
- Zoom webinar option to keep someone else from taking over meeting.
- If you want guests, you want to be able to control if/when someone is able to speak so you can turn off someone disruptive.
- May be an extra charge, takes some extra setup.
- Have to set up a retention policy.
- Various camera options; owl camera can swivel around and focus on faces, doesn't require an operator to select which face to focus on.
- Might require some IT support to hook up to the network

Cammi: Needs to be usable by PTC if sharing expenses

Terry: Steve: can you put together cost sheet and bill us for time?

Reuben: What is the exact purpose? Is our purpose to be invite-only or open to the public? Interactive? HB1620 states that you must record and post meetings.

Stephen (board): That is for School district, likely doesn't apply to us. Virtual meetings may make more sense as they're easier to participate in for busy parents; want to make interactive.

Terry: Can send out a link; webinar seems more controllable for in-person; regular Zoom meetings seem to work fine for online.

Cammi: Our attendance is much better on virtual meetings; is our money better spent in other ways?

Stephen: At work, everyone has own laptop, but use webinar to focus on primary speakers, easy to push out; caveat is that we would all need to have laptops.

Lacey: Extra \$79/mo to have webinar

Reuben: Cohost would pin speakers on top

Cammi: Is there benefit of all being in same room?

Terry: Don't think so, can see you on screen just as well; might have to call in person meeting for special purposes but otherwise

Stephen: could do hybrid

Cammi: see some benefit for those who don't come to the school daily

Reuben: Trying to build community, culture is lost online. More than just passing information.

Terry: Willing to drive in even just to sign checks, but want to see more people attending.

Lacey: Running this will likely fall on her, wants it kept simple, don't need the 1M viewer limit that webinar has;

Ashley: ParentSquare notifications are helpful; could give prizes to those who show up.

Cammi: Communication is much improved now that we have access to some of the tools that used to only be available to district principal. Want more broadcast to the larger community.

Stephen: Much improved over three years ago, but more work to do.

Reuben: Communication should include why someone should take the time to come.

BJ: After hearing all, feel simple webcam with USB omnidirectional mic is best option. Already have spending authorization in place, would like Lacey to proceed with simple acquisition along those lines.

7:57pm Meyers Grant Application

Lacey: We didn't get it, something like 300 entities competing, planning on reaching out to ask if there was anything we could do better next year. Useful experience, now we have a template to move forward from.

Terry: Was with org that got it on third try, so keep trying.

7:59pm Construction Update

Cammi: Final check issued, any further improvements would be part of expansion project.

Stephen: Having staff park up front opens up lot.

Lacey: PTC parent shared that experience is more smooth now. Pickup time is more down to a science now.

Stacy: Haven't blocked Hazelgreen lately.

Cammi: what about in inclement weather?

Lacey: Can make radio system work; wifi with tablet wasn't working well

Cammi: Parents have commented they like seeing teachers.

Stephen: Do we provide rain gear?

Lacey: There is a little bit but might need more.

Stephen: Equipment is a safety issue in bad weather, so if we need something, please let us know what we need to invest in.

Cammi: Electrical: Trees trimmed, PGE planning on finishing before end of year.

8:08pm Staff Contract and Amendment Info

Lacey: "Bereavement" PTO. Proposing 3 days separate from PTO.

BJ: Feel it should be more like 5.

Stephen moved to approve up to 5 days per year, subject to review and/or modification by our lawyer.

Terry: Should that say per year? Tabled.

Terry moved to approve up to 5 days PTO for death of a immediate family member; Ed seconded motion. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain.

Lacey: Stipend: Wanting to reallocate TAG stipend to GRASSP, TAG stipend being paid by SKPS.

Stephen moved that TAG stipend be converted to a GRASSP stipend; Terry seconded motion. Vote: 5 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain.

8:26pm

PR & Social Media

Cammi: Want to work on our image and ensuring it's more positive. Our FB page was pretty locked down in the past, people had to be approved to participate. Lacey was a Social Media lead at past assignments, want to get in other publications as well. Would be good to think long-term about our image and how to improve it. Would be good to get more current reviews out there, not just some negative ones from years back.

Lacey: Some families want kids not on social media at all, and we need to honor that. Could draft release firm, as there is a lot of value in telling the story of your school. Interview videos, captioning pictures, etc. Lots of room for creativity. Hedginger Report came and did an interview of STEAM program in Washington, is a national publication, have put out interesting stories of issues facing education. Might be a draw to let them know some of the interesting things we're facing and working through.

Stephen: Salem Reporter would jump at opportunity to do a report on our school. Social media needs to be more granular; there are laws and regulations about what we can delete, etc. when creating a public square and having the possibility of inappropriate comments. Should be able to create a policy that thoughtfully navigates downsides but can have upsides.

Reuben: Doing this badly is worse than not doing it at all. What is the time commitment? Not responding instigates, so you have to commit to monitoring it before setting it up.

Lacey: Not foreign to doing this, can turn off comments on posts, would like a policy in place. How soon?

Reuben: SKSD has release forms for both photos and posting photos.

Cammi: Would be nice to see info on social media to have more of a feeling of what is happening.

Stephen: May want to look at getting deeper engagement for kindergarten recruiting.

8:41pm

Property Exploration

Cammi: Salem Keizer is ordering an appraisal of property for us to review

8:42pm

Next Meeting info

Next meeting: December 9, 2024 on Zoom.

8:42pm

Meeting Adjourn