

Valley Inquiry Charter School

January Special Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2025 | Zoom Meeting, 6:30 PM

Board Members

Board President & Chair	Cammi Carriere
Vice Chair	Terry Rohse (mostly absent due to connection issues)
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

6:35pm Recording Meeting

Discussion of recording session. Cammi spoke with lawyer, don't have to, wants board input. Don't have a YouTube account or large storage.

Stephen: Want to be mindful of potential burden on staff uploading and maintaining video library.

Garrick Williams: Easy to record and upload later, files are not very large.

Ed: Likes idea of recording.

BJ: In support of recording as long as it doesn't make participants uncomfortable.

Stephen: Want to get to point that we can do that, but should have a retention policy in place.

Stephen moves to not record tonight since we don't have policy and procedure, and have not informed the community that we would be recording, but that we

develop that policy and procedure as early as our next regularly scheduled meeting. Ed seconds motion. Vote: 4 yes / 0 no / 0 abstain. Motion passes.

6:41pm

Expansion project update

Cammi: Vision planning working session tonight. Reviewed architectural drawings with two different potential layouts of portables.

Lacey: Showing architectural drawings of potential layouts.

Cammi: One layout has five new wet portables (bathrooms included), while the other incorporates relocating the existing portable as a dry middle school staff room.

Blake: Still vetting out sixth portable, need to make sure it works with electrical and septic requirements.

BJ: What is condition of older portable?

Blake: Portables have a short life, and it's been there quite a while. Ramp and steps are decaying, will need some work if wanting to keep it around for a while.

Stephen: That was on my list. Cost to move and rehab that building might be around \$10k to move and another \$50k for a foundation, without rehab. Needs siding, roof, paint, ramps, etc. Might have unexpected costs when cracking it open. Part of the reason we landed on 5 instead of 6 is that it leaves a clear line of sight, while the other cuts that off and could be a safety issue. Also crowds the play area outside and creates more of an unusable space. Didn't go for 6 buildings due to costs not just to purchase but also ongoing costs. 5 portables gives ten rooms already. Would have a hard time supporting option 2 with 6 buildings until we understand more of the costs involved.

Cammi: Like the delineation that option 2 gives for middle school students, could use front portable as an office. Basketball court likely not used much, might be more middle school appropriate.

Ed: Have some concerns about line of sight as well.

Stephen: Better visibility when going in to cafeteria.

Cammi: Would probably walk around the school rather than through.

BJ: Line of sight could be an issue, but it rains frequently and people will want to use quickest entrance to get indoors. Sixth portable cost is an issue. Don't want to crowd the playground area, and might not be able to utilize drain field well.

Cammi: Could do covered walkway in front of school.

Stephen: Would want to know how that integrates with fencing to keep campus secure.

Cammi: Asked Blake if this could be done as separate projects.

Blake: Yes, it's a luxury item not a code requirement, so could integrate something like that if needed.

Lacey: Lots of kids play in covered area currently, though few play basketball.

Cammi: Lacey, what are your thoughts from a principal perspective?

Lacey: Kids are noisy on recess, can see some concerns with the L shape design.

Blake: Design 1 tries to align portables with school face, same siding type, ideally paint similarly. Aesthetic is fine either way. Either option can allow for extra steps or a walkway to use one as an office. If trying to create more of a Middle school feeling, could create more of a courtyard between portables as a campus area.

Lacey: Like the idea of having a larger courtyard. Design 1 keeps middle school kids separated from kids on playground as they move between classes.

Blake: Easy to add a courtyard to either design, no notable additional cost until you want to add roofing.

Cammi: If we wanted to add a gym, where would it likely go?

Blake: Covered area enclose or demolish and expand.

Stephen: Pro courtyard. Curious what the cost of enclosing the covered area would be. Could two lanes in front of school be expanded?

Blake: Yes.

Lacey: See pros for both. A covered walkway could be nice.

Blake: Drawings don't include adding ADA spaces, still working through those details. Could accommodate for future walkway covers but don't need to do them now.

Cammi: For bond financing we would need some cost estimates. Is septic system impacted by one or the other?

Blake: Shouldn't impact either option. Electrical is a bigger issue, takes a while to get here. Could impact sixth portable. Could use Drawing 2 and nix one of the boxes.

Lacey: Feel option #1 allows for more of a courtyard without pushing into playground.

Rebekah Benham (chat): Since 5th grade is currently in the portable, will 5th become part of middle school with this new format or will they move into the main building somewhere?

Stephen: Not far enough yet, could bring 5th into building, could have in a portable, could look at library space repartitioning, etc.

Cammi: Some limitation on space.

7:24pm

Open Comment

Halima Shah (chat): Any plans/visions for a preschool?

Cammi: Haven't heard any discussion.

BJ: Want to focus on middle school project and do that well, rather than overextending ourselves.

Stephen: Also want to focus on middle school, interested to explore options later.

Cammi: Lots of preschool options, while middle school options are much more limited.

Ashly Schaffert (chat): See more options with option 1, especially in regards to creating space for the middle schoolers between the portables and/or expanding and creating a space for them towards the back of the property. It does create more of a space between the noise of the playground and the portables.

Kassy Selby: Library shared or separated?

Lacey: We haven't gotten to that point yet but would love to hear feedback.

Kassy Selby: Would like separate library with middle school oriented books.

Crystal (chat): Will there be separate bathrooms?

Stephen: New portables each have own bathroom.

Lacey: Middle school students would not need to come in for the restroom.

Stephen: With this feedback, more options and desires than we have budget and space to do. Should we survey community on priorities?

Cammi: Could consider doing a tech room / library combo for middle school.

Miguel (chat): What option included enclosure of the covered area and moved into a gym?

Cammi: Exploring options.

Blake: Enclosing the covered area would use columns and roof, but walls would need built, heating, remove asphalt. Saves some cost, but not free space, likely notably more expensive than you might think.

Crystal: Were the board spots filled?

Cammi: Still reviewing applicants, always willing to take more applications.

Hannah McSmith: Was 5th grade location discussed?

Stephen: More of an admin decision on where to house them than a board decision.

BJ: Depends on whether issue of their location is about integrating them into middle years program or just where to house them physically. Would want to be mindful before considering integrating 5th grade as a middle school grade and get a lot of input from parents as to whether that would even be something they would want.

Cammi: Would IB MYP even allow for 5th graders to be incorporated?

Lacey: IB is international, has allowance for middle years program to be flexible in which grades are included.

Roberto Marquez (chat): When will we have a final decision based on finance and site being purchased?

Stephen: Trying to line things up, most recent school board meeting did open up building for considering purchase, but we have to go through the steps and don't know how long each will take.

Cammi: A lot has to align for opening middle school next year, would be nice but cannot count on it.

(Several participants in chat mentioned concerns with any modification that would incorporate 5th grade into MYP, including having 5th grade students with 8th grade students and emotional maturity issues.)

Blake: Sounds like option #1 is overall preferred with some modifications. Need to get bidding going if we want work to start this summer.

Stacy Boost: This is exciting! Thanks for the hard work.

Krystal Peterson: I'm excited. Thank you so much board for all your hard work.

7:44pm

Expansion project

Cammi: Do we want to make a motion or wait to see a revised drawing?

BJ: Want to proceed with option 1 with a courtyard.

Ed: Also like option 1.

Stephen: Want to give Blake's team direction this week, so either tonight or on Friday, otherwise 2-3 weeks out.

Cammi: Blake wants to start bidding process, will have minimum times. Closing of bids would be late February and we could decide in March if we get this out quickly.

BJ: Motion to proceed to bid with option 1, with the provision of adding a courtyard expansion.

Cammi: What about covered walkway out front? Would be good for kids waiting for pickup after school.

Stephen: Interested in that, but want cost info before deciding.

Cammi: Spoke with Blake about potential landscaping so kids don't cut through areas between buildings.

Stephen: Second BJ's motion.

Vote: Yes 4 / No 0 / Abstain 0. Motion passes.

Cammi: Should we get cost for demolishing existing portable?

Stephen: Yes. Could also see if controlled burn is an option.

7:52pm

Next Meeting info

Next meeting: February 10, 2025 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

7:53pm

Meeting Adjourn