



ROCKLIN ACADEMY

FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Approved
10-16-2017

Regular Meeting Minutes Rocklin Academy Family of Schools Board of Directors Monday, August 21, 2017 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Rocklin Academy Gateway Campus
6552 Lonetree Blvd., Rocklin, CA 95765

Staff Present: Robin Stout, Brigid Perakis, Ace Ensign, Jillayne Antoon, Andrea Thompson

PROCEDUAL MATTERS

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:31 pm
- II. **Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum:**
 - (a) **Present:** Adam Schwarz, Acting Chairman; Jarrett Black; Alice Dowdin Calvillo; Larry Stieber
 - (b) **Absent:** Doug Johnson, Chairman
 - (c) A quorum was established

CLOSED SESSION

- III. A motion was made by Dowdin Calvillo and seconded by Black to convene to closed session. (4-0)
- IV. **Closed Session Was Called to Order:** 6:35 pm
 - (a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant Exposure to Litigation: (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)). (Two cases)
- V. **Closed Session was adjourned:** 7:28 pm
- VI. **Reconvene to Open Session:** 7:29pm
- VII. **Report of Action Taken in Closed Session:** No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. **Public Comment**

Schwarz read a statement welcoming everyone to the meeting and invited the public to comment on non-agenda items with a three-minute time limit per person.

Karen England, Executive Director of the Capitol Resource Institute, stated she was contacted by parents regarding Title IX and AB 1266 and their lack of trust in the school district.

Western Sierra teacher, Richard Dahl, spoke in regard to how variety in literature and dealing with material one does not agree with creates rigorous thinkers.

Kaylin Sweeney, a kindergarten teacher at Gateway, stated she read a book brought in by a student and the sequence of events portrayed by others was not accurate. Her intent was to help her students through a difficult situation.

Western Sierra teacher, Kristen Schroeder, stated she appreciates the support of the Board and the exposure of students to multi-ethnic works and shared that a survey done last year at Western Sierra showed 93% of the students feel connected and 16% of students identify as LGBTQ.

Denny Rush, Superintendent of the Newcastle School District and Authorizer of Gateway, indicated this is understandably a sensitive topic for families regarding student identity, however the law, guidelines and legal opinions are clear from the U.S. Dept. of Civil Rights and Ed. Code around student privacy rights and that all students have the right to attend school free without harassment, bias, and the same access provided to all students and that failure to do so could have dire consequences for a district.

Gateway teacher, Kelly Bryson, explained she supports the reading of books which helps students become more understandable to their classmates, and the importance of being educated regarding Title IX and nondiscrimination and it would be discriminatory to exclude any type of literature that makes students more understandable to their classmates.

Visitor Courtney McDaniel stated she was concerned regarding gender identity, discrimination and privacy rights and how parents want to be involved in the navigation of such.

Visitor Wendy Sickler stated she enrolled in our school for the parent involvement and collaboration and she felt blindsided and this topic was not appropriate for kindergarten-aged children and wants to be notified.

Visitor Mike Martis stated they chose Gateway because of what they saw on the website and the core values but would like the option to opt out of this.

Summer Peterson, Gateway teacher, stated her child was in the class when the book was read and she heard a different story of what happened than what other parents were saying and that her son did not question his own identity. Peterson was very comfortable with what happened in the classroom.

Visitor Lisa Lucia, a Western Sierra parent, believes it is the job of parents to educate our kids and expose them to diversities and to help them to love each other.

Visitor Ariel Storm stated her daughter was in the class and had a different experience and had to talk to her children about the boy dressed in a dress. The story he changed in class has been told by seven other children and Ms. Swaney knew this happened before and was planned. It is an explicit book and is considered child abuse.

Visitor Julie stated if it's true it was a planned transition, the parent should have a discussion beforehand and would request for permission slips in a similar situation.

Visitor Holly Storey stated her daughter was in the class and was very accepting. She wants to be involved and give them guidance so the child will not be bullied. She does not believe banning outside literature is the answer, but for parents to be involved.

Teacher Katie Kortuem stated that the topic would have come up, regardless if the book was read and if there was notice or not. A student was still going through a transition and regardless if people were notified, the topic was going to be brought up.

Visitor Dale Henkelman expressed the teacher made the choice for the parents and he understands it falls under Title IX, but still did not want it discussed.

Teacher Danielle Hobbs expressed things happened in the classroom and there is no premeditation, but teachers want everyone to feel comfortable and safe. Sometimes moments happen in the classroom and we cannot always control them.

Visitor Mariana Bakkie stated she has a background working in early childhood education in grades kindergarten, 1st – 4th grade. If this book had been about autism or special needs, would the parents want the teacher to draft a letter asking for permission?

Visitor Florin Grove stated they chose to come to this charter school to collaborate and work with teachers. The parents trust you to teach our children, so let them know if something happens, even after the fact, to have conversations at home. Parents want to be respected, they are responsible for their kids and teachers come second.

Schwarz commented we are parents and are having the same thoughts as the parents and are also personally involved in these issues.

Dowdin Calvillo commented as a parent that she wanted to thank all the parents and teachers for coming and talking to the Board. She appreciates the concerns, stories, frustrations and has heard from many parents on many sides, teachers, other stakeholders and knows our staff has taken some action to date, as there has been professional development and strengthened our procedures. She requested staff agendaize this item for the September 18th meeting. We are in a fact-finding mode and at that time we can discuss this issue and decide what our next steps will be.

Schwarz closed the public comments.

CONSENT MATTERS

IX. Adoption of Board Meeting Minutes

(a) July 17, 2017 Regular Business Meeting

X. July Expenditures

Authorization to Pay

(a) Gordon & Rees LLP - \$16,925

- (b) Larson Communications - \$14,000
- (c) Illuminate Education, Inc. - \$15,036

The Consent Matters were passed. Dowdin Calvillo/Black (4-0)

BUSINESS MATTERS

XI. Update to the Co- and Extra-curricular Stipend Schedule

Brigid Perakis stated we do not have a full time Assistant Principal in the Athletic Director position but we now have a teacher overseeing middle school sports activities. Dowdin Calvillo asked why the football coach was paid initially and Chelsea Bowler-Shelton responded that most districts have a paid football coach and for equity, all our head coaches should be paid the same amount. The Stipend Schedule was approved.

Stieber/Schwarz (3-0) (Black abstained)

XII. Update to the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy Athletic Handbook

Stout presented the updated 2017-2018 Western Sierra Athletic Handbook and stated the only change was adding eligibility standards. The Updated Handbook was adopted.

Dowdin Calvillo/Black (4-0)

XIII. Approval of Field Trip

Stout explained administration is seeking approval for 60 students tour the University of Nevada, Reno campus paid by the Annual Giving Campaign donations. Dowdin Calvillo asked if we have many of these campus tours and Bowler-Shelton explained we typically have two per year. Last year students toured the Berkeley and Stanford campuses. The field trip was approved. Stieber/Black (4-0)

XIV. Resolution of STRS Exception

Perakis stated retirees cannot work for six months after retirement in order to work again without penalty. We have a difficult to fill position and we have someone available who just retired recently and we are able to hire this person by passing a Board Resolution. Black asked if there is a limit and Perakis responded it is .007 FTE with six hours added for report writing, etc. Dowdin Calvillo moved and Stieber seconded the motion to adopt Resolution Number 08-21-2017 with the amendments suggested by staff. The motion was passed. (4-0)

INFORMATIONAL MATTERS

XV. Administration Reports

No verbal updates.

XVI. Board Committee Reports

No verbal updates.

XVII. Information Items

- (a) Enrollment Information: Rocklin Academy Turnstone, Rocklin Academy Meyers, Rocklin Academy Gateway and Western Sierra Collegiate Academy
- (b) July Check Register

X. **Adjournment: 8:39pm**