

Valley Academy, iSchool Campus Public Meeting Agenda
November 16, 2010 at 7:30pm
Hurricane City Offices

1. Welcome and call to order (7:30)
2. Review and accept minutes of the previous meeting (7:30-7:35)
3. Read mission statement (7:35)
4. Reports from committees: (7:35- 8:00)
 - a. Legal (Trent)
 - b. Financial (Tonya)
 - c. Marketing (Megan)
 - d. Academics (Gaylene)
 - e. Land and Building (Lane)
 - f. Technology (Derek)
 - g. Board Development (Alisha)
 - h. HR (Dawn)
5. New business (8:00-8:30)
 - a. Selection of new board member
 - b. Vote on board secretary and treasurer
 - c. Discussion of and vote on Amendment to Articles of Incorporation
 - d. Discussion of action to be taken with information gathered from State Charter Staff in application review meeting, 11/15/10.
 - e. Form a committee for hiring the school's Director
6. Time and place for next meeting
7. Adjourn

Valley Academy Public Meeting Notes
11/16/2010 at the Hurricane City Office

Welcome and call to order at 7:30pm

Motion to accept previous minutes as printed by Lane Blackmore, all members in favor.

Mission statement read by Derek Lewis: The mission of Valley Academy is to provide a superior, character building academic program enhanced by integrated training in the fine and performing arts with a technologically advanced curriculum.

Reports from committees:

Legal- We will need to vote to approve name change in Articles of Incorporation so they can be filed. Working on bylaws. Lease agreement with Highmark: we need to make a resolution and sign by next meeting. Jeff will draft a resolution to have ready at our next meeting.

Financial- Tonya has been working on what we need to open a bank account. She has talked to both banks and credit unions. She has a few questions that the bank brought up. Lane says he thinks 501C3 can apply for waivers from bank fees. Trent says Articles should be filed and officially changed before we apply for accounts.

Marketing- needs bios for website. Website is getting close to completion. For right now, it will be informational with bios, calendar, mission statement and letting people know what a charter school is. Brochure will be ready to send out as soon as website is up. Megan will talk to Steamroller about pricing for printing. Send brochure out to library, grocery stores, post office, door to door. Plan for January 18 meeting- iSchool presentation, Promethian board, violin, etc. Have sign-up info available at that meeting. We need to encourage website sign-up to get an interest list. Investors would like to see how much interest we have. Mouse pads and bookmarks are some other ideas for marketing. Board shirts- Jeff will get samples to the board with a refined logo. We will try to have shirts ready for next meeting.

Academics- question on all-day kindergarten. Full day Kindergarten is a big draw for charter schools. Can we offer both half day and full day? Gaylene will research this topic with benefits and drawbacks and report at the next meeting. Special education- prepare for at least 12%. It would be good to use paraprofessionals and parents to help in SE classes to help with budget. Gaylene says she will contact other schools that use arts about ideas they use in the classroom. Lane says we need to be sure we are planning enough classroom space for special education.

Land and Building- building size has been adjusted slightly to fit budget with 525 students. Lane and Rand have been working with Highmark on another land choice on Sand Hollow road close to the other sites we had looked at previously. It seems to be a better option with less site work. It has a one-way road in that would direct traffic well for drop-off and pick-up. Gaylene asked if the old elementary is still an option. The old elementary will be used if needed. It is very economically priced, but the main focus is marketing the new school to fill it with students. We will know by December 9 (the state charter board meeting) whether or not we will be allowed to open in 2011.

Technology- website being worked on.

Board development- Call all board applicants for interview prior to next meeting, January 18, 6:30pm. Alisha working on a board handbook that will include our bylaws, principles of good practice, board member responsibilities, etc.

HR- no report.

Lane Blackmore made a motion to table new business items A and B until our next meeting. All members in favor.

Trent Seegmiller made a motion to amend the Articles of Incorporation regarding the name change from Valley Arts Academy to Valley Academy and the language the State Charter Board asked for in the event of dissolution of the school. All members in favor.

Discussion of our meeting 11/15/2010 with the charter application committee. They asked us to make some revisions to the budget- some items they felt were not high enough. (Those revisions have been completed today) They asked us to make the document smaller so it could be sent by email. (That revision has been completed today) They were very complimentary about our application. It was mostly a discussion with suggestions given to help us in the process. Some suggestions that were given by the committee:

1. There are only 533 seats available for charter students in 2011. One other school besides our school is trying to open in 2011. We will not know until we meet with the state charter board on December 9 which school they will choose. Knowing there are only 533 seats available, we took our student number from 550 to 525. If our school does not open 2011, we are still on track and will be approved for 2012.
2. We were advised that enrollment can be a struggle, especially for 7th and 8th grades. They said to look at the options for all-day Kindergarten.
3. Much was said about Special Education- they wanted to make sure we were aware of how much it will cost, and to budget accordingly.
4. We were advised that boards with members that have specific expertise do much better than boards that are voted in without that consideration.

Our board is made of members with specific expertise. We would like to have this reflected in our bylaws.

Discussion of creating a committee for hiring the school Director. We will know by our January meeting whether we need to hire right away, or if it can wait for a year. We will want to make sure it is advertised well. We want to hire someone that is highly qualified and will stay for many years.

Time and Place for next meeting: January 18, 2011. Hurricane City Office. 7pm.

Motion to adjourn.