

CANYON RIM ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
01-31-17

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Canyon Rim Academy (the "school") was held on January 31, 2017 at 4 pm at the school.

Members present:

Erik Olson, Ruth Hadlock, Dave Havell, Alicia West, Alyssa Larson and Becky Benham

Members absent:

Dave Gisseman

Administration present:

Tiernan Dunmeyer, Dave Garrett

Guests present:

- CRA teachers: Scott Flox, Paige Heyn, Haas Pectol, Sean Thorpe, Rachel Lowry, Whitney Paulsen
- CRA parents: Michelle and Jared Booth, Susan Astle, Camille Johnston
- CRA Secretaries: Shawnette Abraham, Debbie Stevens

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm.

Item 0: Approval of 01-20-2017 CRA Board Minutes – Ruth Hadlock

The board voted via email to approve the minutes of the last board meeting held on January 20, 2017.

Item 1: PTO Report – Alicia West

Many exciting PTO activities are coming up, such as Science Night and Perspectives Contest. Regarding the efforts to purchase and install a playground, Jason Esplin (playground committee chair), has several playground configuration options, as a result of having met with a contractor in December. Rough cost estimate is still in the range of \$50,000-\$75,000 (likely \$50,000 for purchase price and \$25,000 for installation and servicing). Dave Havell will be the Board "point-person" for any information that needs to be brought to the Board. Jason and committee will explore additional funding options.

ACTION: Jason Esplin will present at the February Board meeting. The Board will decide at the February Board meeting what amount of CRA funds can be allocated to the playground.

Item 2: New Business – Gifted & Talented Proposal – Scott Flox

Veteran teacher Scott Flox, who currently is a 3rd grade teacher at CRA, presented his ideas for applying strategies for teaching accelerated and gifted students school-wide. Flox said that due to the difficulty of gauging student learning (because so much of it is standardized), he devised his own way of assessing students via engaging them in mind-mapping. He guided the Board in a mind-mapping session, mirroring the technique he uses in his classroom. He does not recommend a "pull-out" method, where only a portion of students are selected to participate in a GT program. Instead, he recommends all students participate in these strategies whereby the activities and results focus on what kids CAN do, instead of what kids CAN'T do. Mind-mapping is an effective diagnostic tool which teachers can use as a formative assessment and thereby can differentiate for individual student growth (Flox said how students use spatial relations, labeling, sequencing and icons tells a lot about a student's current abilities.) Flox pointed out that a study indicates there are about the same number of accelerated students as there are resource students, thereby giving credence to the notion of incorporating accelerated strategies at CRA to match those programs in place CRA already has to assist resource students.

Item 3: Old Business / Follow-up Items:

Item 3a: Update on 6th grade "Intent-to-return" forms – Dave Garrett

To give parents the option of their students receiving superior education, CRA will continue to offer 6th grade classes. To date, of the 77 students in 5th grade this year, 25 are not returning for 6th grade at CRA. Those results are in line with the Board's plans to have two 6th grade classes next year (with a cap of 26 students in each). *Background information note: Due to the recent Skyline Network Reconfiguration, 6th grade has now been moved to junior high and 9th grade has been moved to high school in the schools that are part of the Skyline Network).*

Item 3b: U of U Survey

The Board reiterated the decision to continue having University of Utah administer the Community Satisfaction Survey, which gives the Board, administration and teachers information on how the students, parents and teachers rate different aspects of CRA.

Item 4: New Business Continued:

Item 4a: Principal Update & Review – Tiernan Dunmeyer

- **Service Learning:** As per our Charter's emphasis on service learning , Tiernan handed out a status report on CRA classes' service-learning activities and undertakings. The Board applauded those efforts and affirmed that the goal of 2 service-learning opportunities per class is worthy.
- **Photo ID Badges:** CRA has issued Photo ID cards/badges to all employees of the school. While not mandatory, employees are encouraged to wear them, as it enhances the safety and security of the school. Badges also easily identify employees to students of the school, as well as guests.
- **Dibels Data:** Dibels tests are administered to all students of CRA at the beginning, middle and end of the year. Dibels tests fluency, accuracy, retell and comprehension. Results thus far:
 - Beginning of the year results (523 students were tested):
 - Intensive (well-below) 33 students (6.3%)
 - Strategic (below) 57 students (10.9%)
 - **Core (benchmark) 433 students (82.8%)**
 - Middle of the year results (519 students were tested):
 - Intensive (well-below) 28 students (5.4%)
 - Strategic (below) 48 students (9.2%)
 - **Core (benchmark) 443 students (85.4%)**
- **School Attendance (Tardies/Absences):** From 8/23/16-1/2/17, Average Daily Attendance was 95.52% (Absent 4.48%). Letters were sent to 64 parents of students who had more than 5 tardies. Receipt of acknowledgement was requested; those parents who don't respond after 2 letters will be called by Tiernan to discuss solutions.

Item 4b: School Calendar 2017-2018 – Shawnette Abraham

Shawnette constructed a draft version of the CRA 2017-2018 school calendar, recognizing the school's needs and comparing several school districts' calendars to inform the draft.

ACTION: The Board will vote to approve the calendar at the next Board meeting.

Item 4c: Classroom Usage – Dave Garrett

As we will have one extra classroom, due to the 6th grade reconfiguration next year, Dave recommended moving Mrs. Niles 6th grade classroom inside the confines of the main building

(instead of beyond the double-doors). He then suggested that Mrs. Niles' old classroom be used to house Music & Movement. As Susan Swidnicki has been using the multi-purpose stage for teaching Music & Movement, it will be a great benefit for the school to have a designated classroom, one that can withstand higher levels of sound, since it's beyond the set of double-doors. The Board approved the recommendation.

Item 4d: Principal Transition – Erik Olson

The Board is actively working on a plan to transition to a new principal, as a result of Tiernan's recent resignation. The transition will take place sometime by the end of the school year.

Item 4e: Land Trust – Dave Garrett

A year-to-date accounting has been made for Land Trust funds that were doled out last year to be used for the 2016-2017 school year. In the next couple months, the Board will discuss and approve a plan for next year's Land Trust funds.

Item 4f: After-School Robotics Club – Dave Garrett

A proposal has been made to consider an after-school robotics club, consisting of two Lego Mindstorms Robotics teams, comprised of 5th and 6th grade students. Students would learn to build and program robots that successfully complete a series of tasks and will compete against other teams.

ACTION: Mandy Niles, Sean Thorpe and Dave Garrett will continue to gather details to give a full proposal to the Board.

Item 4g: Follow-up Items from Board Retreat – Erik Olson

The Board has been diligently working on revising the school's Charter. The basis of the Charter remains the same; sections have been reorganized, cleaned up and extraneous information removed. The revised Charter will now tell the story of the history of CRA, as we are now in our 10th year. School policies, while mentioned in the Charter, will be appendixes. CRA's Ends and Means policy, a mainstay of our policies, and a refreshed version of our vision/mission statements have been worked into the Charter to reflect expectations for the school.

Erik also revised the bylaws. All Board members present approved the revision. Pending approval from Dave Gisseman, the new bylaws will be adopted.

ACTION: Erik will circulate the Charter draft revision by mid-February and invite Board members to re-work areas that need attention.

ACTION: Ruth will email the Board a revised copy of the updated bylaws and will request approval from Dave Gisseman via email. As soon as approved, Ruth will ask Shawnette to upload to the "policies and procedures" section of CRA's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Wednesday, February 23, 2017 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hadlock