

CANYON RIM ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
2-28-19

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Canyon Rim Academy (the “school”) was held on February 28, 2019 at 4:00 pm at Canyon Rim Academy.

Members present: Erik Olson, Becky Benham, David Gisseman, Jason Esplin, Alicia West (by phone)

Administration Present: Kent Fuller & David Garrett

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Item 1: Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item 2: PTO Report

- No PTO Report, as Susan Astle and Marie Poulson were unable to attend.

Item 3: Principal Report-Kent Fuller

- **Land Trust Report:**
 - With the Land Trust Funds, Canyon Rim Academy (CRA) is planning to do the following:
 - Purchase 2 chromebook sets and carts, so students will have greater access to some of the things we’re trying to do; especially regarding grade level tests and math.
 - Put \$10,000 into an administrative team member to work on literacy, looking at data analysis, mentoring and administrative items.
 - Use money for teacher professional development in language arts, science, and math.
 - **New Science Core coming from the State of Utah.**
 - CRA added science as a goal, as the scaffolding between grades needs more focus. There is a new science core coming from the state in the 2020-2021 academic year; we are preparing now in anticipation of the rollout.
 - **Data Analyst, literacy specialist new position as part of the administrative team.**
 - Looking for Part Time / Half Time, could be a teacher here, or someone else. There are many different director meetings required to be attended, and it’s helpful to have someone on staff attend many and bring back actions and learnings.
 - For example, in a district, they’ll have a literacy expert, etc., and it’s hard to go to all those meetings. Having somebody else on the administrative team to help with that will be good.

- This year, Rachel Lowry did a great job with literacy through the course of her internship, which ended in December.
 - The data analyst will focus on literacy, and will conduct mentoring, coaching, and other tasks assigned by the Principal.
- **Faculty and Staff**
 - Mr Fuller sent out the intent to return; all classroom teachers have expressed they're coming back.
 - We had a change in our art specialty teachers; Jennie Weiler has been replaced by Crissy Richards.
- **Math Night**
 - Upcoming, being designed; like science night; activities will be math-oriented.
 - Kids can come through by grade, but we're looking at for the future (probably next year).
- **DIBELS results**
 - We are pleased with DIBELS results this year.
 - One particular big increase is 1st grade, end of year -- to begin the year we had 27 kids below; by mid-year, there were only 6.
 - We will focus on assessing what is working well and implementing best practices at all levels.
- **SPED**
 - We have a uniform program in math and language arts. We continue to assess and evaluate how we can improve in SPED.

Item 4: Business Administrator Report (Dave Garrett)

- **Teton Science School (TSS)**
 - We are looking forward to TSS later this spring and expect excellent participation from our sixth graders. We expect the overall cost to be approximately \$20,000, including transportation.
- **University of Utah Stakeholder Survey**
 - The annual stakeholder survey wrapped up last week; Results will be made available by no earlier than about 3/20; generally it's a 4-6 week turnaround.
 - Parent respondents were 235, a little uptick from last year. Teachers 18; Staff 15.
 - Highlights will be discussed at our next meeting.
- **Hale Center Theatre**, reminder, for Wednesday, March 13th at 7:30pm.
- **Profit and Loss:**
 - Little change from last month.
 - We transferred a significant amount of cash from our operating account to the PTIF account, which garners 2.5% interest.

Item 5: New Business

- **Board Election Update**

- Timeline:
 - Applications are being collected. We have 1 so far submitted, for both positions.
 - Went out last Thursday, February 21.
 - The deadline is March 15th; intention was to have it on Monday the 18th, in case of last minute additions.
 - Then we can get a plan to go about meeting, vetting, and talk about making the decision on April 4th.
- Parent Election:
 - Parent Election should follow Board Election, in April.
 - Then May 16 for annual meeting, and that's where we'd present the new members.
- Reminders to apply have been sent via email, by Shawnette, and through multiple reminders, including upcoming planned reminders in the newsletters on March 4 and March 11. There are about 3 weeks to gather applicants.
- Areas of special interest include finance / accounting experience; or someone in education; fundraising; real estate development.

- **April 4th: Board Elections.**

- The board agreed that it would be desirable to avoid politicizing the parent election, to discourage active campaigning without too much rigor or policy. Politicizing the election can scare away some otherwise strong applicants.
- Ensure that the process stays simple and toned down, with us gathering written statements and posting them online. As a group, we discourage flyers, campaigning, walking up to strangers, etc.
- **Action:** Becky will revive the document from last time, and ensure the message is appropriate with board members' input as needed. After the board meeting on April 4, we will have a clear path forward for how to message this.

Item 6: Old Business

- Alicia West joins by phone.
- **School Land Trust Plan and Funding**
 - Approved by unanimous vote among the 5 present (Dave Gisseman, Becky Benham, Erik Olson, Alicia West, Jason Esplin)
- **Geographic Preference**
 - The board spent some time in January meeting talking about this topic; we talked about it in the strategic planning meeting a few months ago.

- The board has new options with a change in the law put into place in 2018:
 - 1) Leave 2 mile radius in place and do nothing.
 - 2) Overlay on top of that 2 mile radius a smaller geographic preference, sufficient to cover the former boundaries of Canyon Rim Elementary. This will not require changing our charter, based on the law.
 - 3) Eliminate the 2 mile radius and only have a smaller radius to cover the former boundaries of Canyon Rim Elementary. This change would likely require a change to our charter, and require Board of Education Approval.
- The Board discussed pros and cons of the various options, and ultimately concluded, by a unanimous vote of the 5 board members in attendance (Dave Gisseman, Becky Benham, Erik Olson, Alicia West, Jason Esplin), that Option 2 is in the best interests of the school.
- Adding the smaller geographic preference meets the goal that the founders of the school had in attempting to maintain a neighborhood school for those students who would have attended Canyon Rim Elementary before it was closed, and keeping in place the larger geographic preference will help the school continue to maintain the broader school community that now covers the two-mile-radius area extending beyond the old Canyon Rim Elementary boundaries. The new, smaller geographic preference will increase enrollment opportunities for those families who move near the school, while having minimal impact on those in the broader two-mile radius. Nonetheless, enrollment at CRA after kindergarten will remain difficult wherever the student resides.
- Based on today's vote, the school's enrollment preferences are as follows:
 - 1) Siblings of enrolled students
 - 2) Children of school employees
 - 3) Students residing within the new, approximately half-mile radius
 - 4) Students residing within the existing two-mile radius
- Dave Garrett has estimated that the new radius will be approximately 0.57 miles, and will have a map drawn up to reflect the two geographic preferences.

The meeting was called to a close at approximately 6 p.m.