The Valley School of Southern Oregon
857 Valley View Dr. Medford, OR 97504

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board
Date and Time: August 20, 2025 - 5.00p to 6.30p
Location: The Valley School or Google Meet

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rainy Tilton, Kaitie Warner, Dan Akita (virtual), Amy Maukonen (virtual), Kim Parkerson, Stacy Fields, Craig Manning, Mike Bowman, Bryan Cohee (virtual), Alan Cochran, Autumn Doshier

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Cochran

STAFF: Kris Von Wald, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm, with a quorum present

A motion was made to consent to the agenda; 2nd received: Consent to the agenda approved.

Minutes of the June 16, 2025, were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes; 2nd received: Minutes approved

No members of the public were present and no public comments received.

Kris provided a brief overview of the science room construction project and completion, noting what a big difference it has made to the science classroom tables will be delivered during Fall in the Field and that will conclude the upgrade to the science room

Kris noted the Action Items from previous meetings were inadvertently left off the agenda this month, and will return as a standard agenda item next time.

CONTENT ITEM 1: Officer Elections
A brief discussion was held about the officer positions and purpose of the positions, including the common practice at The Valley School. Officers were nominated as follows:

President (and Chair): Rainy Tilton
Vice President: Kaitie Warner
Treasurer: Dan Akita
Secretary: Amy Maukonen

A motion was made to approve these officer nominations; 2nd received: Officers approved for the 2025/26 School Year.

CONTENT ITEM 2: Committee Assignments
A brief discussion about the committee structure for the Board included the standing committees of Finance, Policy and the Executive Committee. In addition, committees can be formed as needed to be task or project oriented. For the 2025/26 school year, Board members serving on these committees are:

Finance: Dan Akita, Kim Parkerson, Alan Cochran
Policy: Amy Maukonen, Mike Bowman, Craig Manning
Executive Committee: Rainy Tilton, Kaitie Warner, Dan Akita, Amy Maukonen (Officers of the Board)

A brief discussion was held about the possibility of forming a Governance Committee to oversee Board development (recruitment, induction, training, evaluation) and a Fundraising Committee to focus on meeting the financial needs of the School for the future. These Committees will be formed with further discussion at a future meeting.

CONTENT ITEM 3: Regular Board Meeting Dates
Regular Board Meetings have normally been held the 3rd Wednesday of the month, preceded by the Finance Committee meeting on the 2nd Wednesday. This meeting schedule seems to work best for the Board, and will continue to be the regular meeting schedule for the 2025/2026 Board year.

It was also discussed that the meeting time of 90 minutes may not be sufficient to cover all of the business the Board needs to attend to this coming year (charter renewal, financial sustainability, Director recruitment, etc). Either additional meetings or added meeting time will need to be considered so the Board is able to fulfill their duties.

CONTENT ITEM 4: Policy Update
Since a quorum was not met for the previously scheduled Special Meeting to approve policies, the Board set a new date of September 3, 2025, at 5 pm, by Google Meet to update the policy book by reading the updates into the minutes.

CONTENT ITEM 5: TVS Staffing / Structure and Programming Updates for the 2025-26 School Year

1. Outdoor Ed is not receiving the same amount of funding as in previous years and possibly may not be funded at all. The TVS Fall in the Field program has been an anchor for many years and the staff is eager to include it this year as well. But it may have a very different financial impact than had originally been contemplated by our budget. Fall in the Field normally runs the school about $16,000 - $17,000 and the 6th grade students were the only students funded by the state. Funding has been between $5,000 - $7,000 depending on the number of 6th grade students. TVS has not typically charged a fee for participation in Fall in the Field.

The Board was asked to consider whether this program should be approved in spite of the possible lack of programming. A motion was made to approve Fall in the Field for the 2025/26 school year regardless of the funding; 2nd received: Fall in the Field will go forward for the 2025/26 school year.

2. At the June Board meeting Lily announced she would not be returning to TVS for this academic year. The discussion about how to proceed was discussed and the decision turned over to Kris to find the staffing structure for the year. The staffing structure for the 2025/26 school year includes having Kris as the Head of School with a new job description, Tracy moved into the Business Manager position and a new front office assistant hired (current staff member accepted this position). This means there are 3 administrative staff and 9.5 instruction staff with one part time independent contractor.

CONTENT ITEM 6: Financial Status Report and Supplemental Budget
Dan presented the financial report (prior to the audit) alongside the report about receipt of the ERC tax refunds, leaving the school with a healthy bank balance to start the school year. With increased funding demands and potential funding reductions on the horizon, future discussions about where funds will be expended and/or invested in school operations is needed. The Board discussed funding uncertainty and enrollment concerns, and also recognized the need to provide reasonable salaries for the staff positions required by the school. Along with the increased job responsibilities Kris is undertaking as Head of School, an increase in her salary to $100,000 effective August 1 was discussed. A motion was made to approve an increase in salary for the Head of School; 2nd received: Motion approved.

Kris also asked for Tracy Boykin to be approved for a debit card for the Rogue Operating Account since she is primarily responsible for all purchasing. A motion was made, 2nd received: Debit Card for Tracy Boykin was approved.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2025; 5.00p to 6.30p - To Be Confirmed

ADJOURNMENT at 7:05 pm.