



**The Valley School of Southern Oregon**

857 Valley View Dr. Medford, OR 97504

**Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025; 5:00pm

Minutes:

Call to order 5:04

Call to Order and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 5:04p. Attending: Rainy Tilton, Kaitie Warner, Dan Akita, Kim Parkerson, Bryan Cohee, Mike Bowman, Craig Manning (virtually) Absent: Amy Maukonen, Alan Cochran, Stacy Fields
Approval of the minutes	February 19, 2025 Meeting: One correction needed to note the Lease has a 1% annual increase until the next extension and then includes a 2% annual increase.  Motion to accept the minutes with the correction: Kaitie Second: Kim Unanimous Vote in favor
Lottery Report	A report on the March 14 lottery draw: All 40 vacancies will be filled with 6th graders, including 17 siblings, who have all been notified with a May 1st deadline for acceptance. For the 40 vacancies, we received 50 in district applications and 16 out of district applications.  <b>Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year (with a few vacancies yet to be filled) is expected to be:</b> 44 -8th, 20 on wait-list 41 -7th, 10 on wait-list 40- 6th, 42 on wait-list
Facilities Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hood going in.</li><li>• Smoke test this week.</li><li>• Cooking in April</li></ul>
Public Comment	Several members of the public were in attendance and registered to provide public comment addressing concerns about student attire displaying "Make America Great Again" as a violation of the school's dress code policy on the grounds that it is hate speech and that it is distracting to student learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rob F</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Payton H</li> <li>● Stacey F</li> <li>● Travis B</li> <li>● Jamie B</li> <li>● Hallie B</li> <li>● Keri B</li> </ul>
Open items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All open items from previous meetings have been closed with reports included in this meeting</li> </ul>
Academic Director report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● US News article showing we are doing well.</li> <li>● Ren Faire = Enrichment showcase.</li> <li>● Grandparent running music. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lots of enthusiasm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Last 9 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enrichments</li> <li>○ Play- Click Clack Moo adaptation with local elementary schools coming to watch.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dress Code	<p>The Board discussed the concern raised around the dress code policy and administration’s enforcement of the policy, with members of the public actively engaging in the discussion.</p> <p>Background around the issue was provided, describing how the issue was raised by a student’s family directly to a teacher and then to administration in the context of another meeting. Lily and Kris discussed ways the topic could be addressed in the school context, with Kris spearheading discussions with OSBA and the District to get guidance and discussing with the student the process of how to address the issue around the policy at Board level. The issue of dress codes were discussed with the staff team and ways in which the topic of civil discourse is already included in school teaching and learning units, with staff being aware of concerns without taking on dress code policy and enforcement.</p> <p>Staff presented information related to first amendment rights in the constitution alongside legal precedents around this issue in schools, noting there was not any external guidance that supported asking a student to remove a MAGA hat under the current dress code. Staff also voiced the teaching staff concerns that any ambiguity or subjectivity in a policy requires too much staff time and attention which takes away from other instruction.</p> <p>During the discussion, members of the public provided examples of different school dress codes and policies for consideration.</p> <p>Discussion also included questions about whether there were behavior problems associated with this particular issue and staff replied there were not. Staff were also asked if there were distractions caused by the hat and</p>

	<p>they reported they had not been made aware of the student or the hat causing any distractions at the school, though this was refuted by public in attendance.</p> <p>Board also discussed the need for students and families to have a mechanism to provide input to issues of this type since only one perspective was presented by the public at this session.</p> <p>Kim made a motion to gather more information and convene a separate study session to address the concern more fully.  Rainy Seconded.  Roll Call Vote:  Yes: Rainy Tilton, Kaitie Warner, Dan Akita, Kim Parkerson, Mike Bowman, Craig Manning (virtually)  No: Bryan Cohee</p> <p>Kris asked to be empowered to gain a legal opinion to share at the study session and the response was yes.</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  <b>Within two calendar weeks we set up study session</b>  <b>Seek out legal opinion</b></p>
<p>Family, Student, Staff Survey</p>	<p>The board was presented with data from the surveys and was asked to identify any areas where further investigation is desired.</p> <p>Overall strong results. Generally, parents report more safety (physical, psychological, emotional) for their students than students report, though both report a strong sense of safety at TVS. Generally, parents still reporting they don't know a lot of what is going on at TVS for their student or generally. This is an area of improvement for the school.</p> <p>With staff there are mixed results and some concerns about safety that need to be addressed more directly. These are things included in the KPI for workplace improvement this year and into next.</p>
<p>Instructional Design</p>	<p>The Board was presented with an overall instructional design setting out the staffing structures for 2025/26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 cores, including SS, ELA, Sci, OPL and Math</li> <li>● 5 lead teachers</li> <li>● Afternoon time becomes an OPL project block.</li> <li>● Multidisciplinary planning.</li> <li>● Smaller groups for pull outs throughout the week, PE, and enrichments.</li> <li>● 3.5 cos</li> <li>● 1 Health wellness and SEL Coordinator</li> <li>● Possible need for 0.5 culinary</li> <li>● Great move for school.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decrease class sizes in general.</li> <li>○ Bring in a teacher who is passionate and trained in math. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7-8 grades integrated</li> <li>■ 6 grade separate</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ OPL block can grow and provide more hands on</li> <li>○ Ethos we want and blended classrooms</li> <li>○ Extended periods of time to be curious</li> <li>○ Coaching needed for how to run a large project block.</li> </ul>
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ADM Up 120k total, 75k on attendance</li> <li>● SIA same</li> <li>● 2 day culinary</li> <li>● Outdoor ed funding- up in the air</li> <li>● FIG- fundraising- 20k for next year, Gala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This year community building.</li> <li>○ Not fundraiser. Tiles and Bricks</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Alhumbra 30k</li> <li>● Staffing the same with one position move to contract.</li> <li>● Staff increases the same formula as last year</li> <li>● 42k in repairs and facilities</li> </ul> <p>Actions to consider:  Appraisal needed- do we want to?  Renovate the closet in the North building.  Drainage out front.  Gutters  Anything else to consider?</p>
Finance Committee Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hood costs 30k.</li> <li>● 181k in the bank.</li> <li>● IRS refunds still not fully received</li> </ul>
Policy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No news</li> </ul>
Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussed General Structure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Big conversation</li> <li>○ Pros and cons of different structural changes</li> <li>○ Options and directions</li> <li>○ Possible Special meeting to discuss.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Schedule	<p>April 2nd special meeting of the board- 2 agenda items.  April 9 Fin Com  April 16 Board</p>
Adjourn	<p>8:02 adjourned</p>