



The Valley School of Southern Oregon

857 Valley View Dr. Medford, OR 97504

Minutes of the Board

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Call to Order at 5:04 by Rainy

In attendance: Rainy Tilton, Kaitie Warner, Kim Parkerson, Mike Bowman, Alan Cochran, Stacy Fields

Absent: Dan Akita, Amy Maukonen, Craig Manning, Bryan Cohee

Quorum Present

One Guest Present: Autumn Doshier

Consent to Agenda:

Kaitie motions to approve the Agenda with the addition of an Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2) as discussed. Alan seconds. Vote: unanimous. Agenda approved

Approve Minutes from 5/21/2025:

Kaitie makes a motion to approve the Minutes with changes as discussed; Kim seconds. Vote: unanimous. Minutes approved

Information and Announcements:

Lily provided her Academic Director Report:

End of year wrap included a staff review of the school wide goal which will be discussed later by Kris. To satisfy the MSD requirements for teacher evaluations, the lead teachers had 2 informal observations and 1 formal observation with direct feedback provided by Lily to the teacher. These observations were undertaken using the Danielson framework. For next year, Lily and Kris discussed the need to modify the framework to make it more appropriate to TVS.

Looking into next year, staff PD will be an ongoing connection with Montessori practices. We have a very strong instructional team with all lead teacher positions and as of today the co-teacher position filled with great people who fit with TVS. We will be working with Resolve to address bullying early in the year through their Choice Point program. Staff is in need of instructional coaching and support around the longer block periods, blended classrooms and use of projects. Intentional support is being built in to next year to provide that support. Staff will continue to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings with 2 staff circles, 1 student support meeting, and 1 PLC (professional learning circle). Focus on looking at the behavior data will be to finding solutions and direct student support.

Lily then announced that she will not be returning to TVS next year for personal reasons. Board members expressed thanks for her service to The Valley School in her current capacity and for the past as a teacher and board member, recognizing that her connection to TVS is long-standing one and the school will always be a place of belonging for her. The Board wished her well in her future endeavors.

Correspondence Received:

The Board received a copy of a report filed with the NAACP around the racist incidents that occurred at The Valley School over the course of several months. Both that report and a response prepared by Kris and Lily have been forwarded to the full Board. The part of the response addressing plans to improve school culture and student support is included here as follows:

Proactive Steps for Building School Culture- Lastly, we're looking for a summary of what's being done (or planned) to help staff and students build a stronger culture of belonging, inclusion, and respect. This could include staff training, student curriculum, or any other efforts underway.

In February, we realized our approaches were generally not working. We shifted by moving away from a focus on challenging behaviors to focus on our values. The bullying unit in health and wellness was in February and we also designated February as Kindness Month. On April 4 we sent home with each student a Pledge of commitment to the School's values signed by their Advisory teacher and asked them to return the Pledge signed by them and their families. Out of 125 pledges distributed, we received 123 back fully signed.

We have and will continue to recenter relationships with students. Not all of the teachers used Advisory to its full potential to build community, communicate about responsibility and behavior standards, and engage students with each other and their advisory teachers. That is not negotiable for staff and/or students in the coming year, and our two new lead teachers (math and social sciences) are experienced and able in this regard. Our SEL Coordinator is particularly experienced and skilled in this area and will be a full time staff member in the coming year, providing more time for them to support advisory teams to use and implement the wealth of targeted SEL and restorative resources they have developed.

Resolve's Choice Point program that has a focus on community building and anti-bullying approaches will be kicked off at the beginning of the year for all students. Training and implementation of restorative practices will be part of the pre-service staff development time in August.

Our use of data-informed student support will be more clear about what responses are appropriate for different types and tiers of behavior (such as what gets handled in the moment, what elicits communication with parents, what requires a family conference and what gets referred to administration).

All teachers will be more responsive and communicate more regularly with parents around their students' SEL needs, progress and behavior challenges. Expectations for student support, behavior and family involvement will be more clearly communicated up front and repeated frequently throughout the year. This includes expectations of students, families and staff, all with a focus on building the values-focused community TVS is known as.

Rainy restated her request to Lily in a prior conversation to have the Board involved in training related to the Resolve program so there is clear understanding and integration of the approach throughout the school.

Public Comment:

Autumn Doshier introduced herself and appreciated being asked in as a guest for this meeting.

Content Item 1: Report on Open Action Items from Previous Meetings:

1. The Board will add an agenda item for June to discuss goals set and regular Director reports for family volunteer participation and student attendance. Lily will research and report back to the Board restrictions and rights of the school for enforcement. THIS ITEM REMAINS OPEN FOR THE BOARD TO AGREE ANY POLICY CHANGES RELATED TO VOLUNTEER/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.
2. Kris will add a Board section to the newsletters and ask someone on the Board to write a blurb every month (maybe the secretary). CLOSED ITEM
3. Amy will write a response to the school community re: The Town Hall to the TVS community and mail it from the Board account. OPEN ITEM
4. Kris will create a Board timeline recruitment plan for 2025-26. Next month a vote for the 25/26 Board will be on the agenda. OPEN ITEM
5. Kris will create agenda and zoom link and public notice of special mtg on 6/24 to read and adopt policy updates. CLOSED ITEM
6. Kris will share the year-long calendar that the Board adopted so the Board can take more responsibility for creating agendas that include the important year-long Board responsibilities. CLOSED ITEM
7. Board Evaluation Committee (from previous action items - committee drafted evaluation framework and is awaiting input from Kris and evaluation date scheduled): OPEN ITEM

Content Item 2: Board Elections

The Board considered the current candidates whose terms expire 6/30/2025 for an additional 2-year term and 1 candidate to file a vacancy. The written application from Autumn Doshier was reviewed by the Board and Autumn provided a brief overview of why she was interested in serving and what service she can offer as a Board member. Board members in attendance voted on all candidates by way of secret ballot. Results of the vote were unanimous in favor of all candidates.

Voting Board members are as follows:

Rainy Tilton
Kaitie Warner
Alan Cochran
Kim Parkerson
Mike Bowman
Stacy Fields

Content Item 3: Board Annual Work Plan

Kris provided a reminder of the agreed work plan for the remainder of the 2024/25 Academic Year from the January 15, 2025, meeting and shared the draft annual work plan for the 2025/26 year. Some discussion followed with items added and an agreement to bring the work plan to the August meeting for discussion and approval for the next school year.

Content Item 4: Finance Committee Report

The Board reviewed the May financial reports as presented by the FinCom. Kris then provided an explanation of the discussion held at FinCom about how to address the increased costs of health insurance. Kris provided updated information with a recommendation that the school take the following action:

1. Pursue renewal of the current health insurance with Regence for the period from 8/1 through 12/31/2025 and cover the additional cost of the premium for a higher deductible plan. This means that the cost to TVS is higher on a monthly basis but the staff must meet a higher deductible for the year.
2. Apply for the OEBC health insurance to be effective 1/1/2026. That will bring the premium back down on a monthly basis and reduce the annual deductible. That plan will run from 1/1 - 9/30/2026 at which time it must be renewed. Cost increases in premium are guaranteed to be capped at less than 4% per year which will help us to avoid this dilemma in the future.
3. TVS to cover the increased monthly premium cost between the \$525 currently covered and the actual premium so that employee's monthly costs do not change through the 2025/26 school year.

The 2025/26 budget has been presented to MSD with the unassigned fund balance of -\$8,531.52 which will be covered by net assets carried forward. However, with the change in health insurance costs and all other anticipated costs included, the final budget will be slightly different. Kris will update the budget as final and provide that to the Board. The preliminary budget presented to MSD can stand until the Board is able to review and approve the final budget for 2025/26.

Executive Session:

To discuss key staffing changes/updates and ED status under ORS 192.660(2).

Return to Public Meeting at 7.26p.

Next steps related to staffing requirements:

Kris to think about and draft potential administrative and instructional staffing structure for the coming year along with appropriate job descriptions. She would like the Board to review and provide input to make the best decision for the School.

Meeting Adjourned 7.27p.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

June 24, 2025; 5.00p to 6.00p with single topic of policy review and approval for update of School Board Policies.

August 20, 2025; 5.00p to 6.00p for Regular Meeting.

Action Items:

- The Board will add an agenda item for June to discuss goals set and regular Director reports for family volunteer participation and student attendance. Lily will research and report back to the Board restrictions and rights of the school for enforcement of volunteer participation requirement. THIS ITEM REMAINS OPEN FOR THE BOARD TO AGREE ANY POLICY CHANGES RELATED TO VOLUNTEER/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.
- Amy will write a response to the school community re: The Town Hall to the TVS community and mail it from the Board account. OPEN ITEM
- Kris will create a Board timeline recruitment plan for 2025-26. Next month a vote for the 25/26 Board will be on the agenda. OPEN ITEM
- Board Evaluation Committee (from previous action items - committee drafted evaluation framework and is awaiting input from Kris and evaluation date scheduled): OPEN ITEM
- Kris to report on any restrictions or constraints for community use of public school facilities (from previous meeting): OPEN ITEM

Minutes Approved: 8/20/2025