

Ka'ōhao Public Charter School

Minutes of Board Meeting, November 20, 2019

Board Members Present:

Philip Whitesell, President
Winston Sakurai, School Director
Celia Miner, via Zoom
Espie Chapman
Kim Hanson, Treasurer/Secretary - absent
David Root, via Zoom
Eun Strawser, Vice President
Cynthia Hunter
Brian Canevari
Jim Swieter

Community Members Present:

Callie Lewis, Scribe

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2019.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Phil Whitesell.
- Approval of the October Minutes was moved by Dr. Hunter and seconded by Dr. Strawser. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Community Input:

- There was a nice write-up about Ms. Mindy and our Zero Waste program in the Winter 2019 edition of go Kailua magazine.

3. Student Council: Espie Chapman, Sponsor

- StuCo just finished the Homeless Veterans Challenge, collecting household goods and toiletries.
- Race for the Cure fundraising has concluded, and the students will “Pie Dr. Sakurai” next Wednesday morning.

4. KSO Report: Callie Lewis, Auction co-Chair

- The Auction committee has decided on the special appeal, which is State of the Art Safety and Communications Systems. The first priority will be to replace the school phone system, and other projects will be decided later.

5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Winston Sakurai

- The per pupil allocation has not yet been finalized, but the estimate provided by the Commission is close to what we expected. The budget is currently on track, and we will present in more detail and for approval in January.

6. Nominating Committee Report: Cynthia Hunter

- The current bylaws do not specify term limits. Mr. Root would like to see a slate each year of three solid new board members. The three can be comprised of existing members, who wish to stand for and are eligible for another term, or new members to serve a new three-year term. Dr. Strawser would like to meet with Dr. Hunter and discuss the nuances of board membership and work out a plan to implement a policy. The membership is based on merit, not representation, at this time.

7. Director's Report: Winston Sakurai

- We have received a permit to build the shade structure, so we are cleared to start construction. We are anticipating a late-December start.
- The Ka'ohao Carnival was a fantastic community event at the school in October. We are thankful to Kalaheo High School students for working the carnival and the haunted house.
- We are continuing our PBL efforts, and we had a Design Thinking workshop on our Nov 1 PD Day. Dr. Sakurai was impressed with our staff's willingness to try new things and openness to learning. This Design Thinking workshop was part of fulfilling our grant from Castle Foundation.
- Dr. Whitesell forwarded an email from Steve Hirakami regarding the revitalization of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN). The cost to join would be a few thousand dollars. Dr. Sakurai believes that it is important for our school to have a voice in this network. For example, the Commission is working on changing the Federal Impact Aid allocation. Ka'ohao currently receives the lowest allocation for any charter school. He believes issues like this can be addressed by the HPCSN. Mr. Canevari understood that the funds were more for travel costs for outer-island members than for lobbying or Network staff members. He wants there to be more structure and direction from the HPCSN. He would request 1-, 5-, 10-, and 20-year plans prior to the school committing resources. Dr. Strawser agreed that there is not enough of a plan set forth at this time. Dr. Sakurai is concerned that our school will not have a voice in this group as they push various agenda, thus missing out of potential funds. Dr. Sakurai will suggest that the group holds a meeting (prior to committing funds) to further discuss the direction of the Network.
- The state will change how our SPED department is funded for the 2020-2021 school year. Our SPED population has steadily increased since 2015. We are currently at 28 students. Our current funding is by positions. The school funds additional positions as the funding is not adequate to service our students. We are the 2nd lowest funded school in the state for SPED. Next year, the state will be providing funding on a per pupil basis. They are requesting a spending plan for these funds by Dec. 31, 2019. 95% must fund positions, and a maximum of 5% is for supplies and equipment. Our plan is to use this money for one additional SPED teacher and EA, and to use the balance to fund positions that we are already paying for. This is possible because of our SPED inclusion practices.
- Dr. Whitesell thanked Dr. Sakurai for taking the initiative to patch a large hole in our playground surface. He is also working on fixing the kiln that has been out of commission since early 2019.

9. New Business:

- Dr. Strawser acknowledged a letter received from a community member.
- Ms. Chapman added that she held a kupuna breakfast this month that was very successful.

7. Adjournment: Members adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Next Meeting Scheduled for January 22, 2020, 6:00pm in the Ka'ohao School Library

Submitted by Callie Lewis, Scribe

Be it resolved that:

- The Board approves the minutes of October 23, 2019.

In witness thereof, the undersigned members of the Board have duly executed this resolution on November 20, 2019.

Philip Whitesell, Espie Chapman, David Root, Eun Strawser, Brian Canevari, Celia Miner, Cindy Hunter, Jim Swieter.