

Ka'ōhao Public Charter School

Minutes of Board Meeting, July 22, 2020 – via Zoom

Board Members Present:

Philip Whitesell, President
Winston Sakurai, School Director
Celia Miner – absent
Espie Chapman
Eun Strawser, Vice President
Cynthia Hunter
Jim Swieter – absent
Laura Young
Jared Underwood
Jill Oliver

Community Members Present:

Callie Lewis, Scribe
PJ Foehr, Commission Interim Dep. Dir.
Holly Kemsley, Teacher
Keri Powers Pye, Counselor
Kristi Petosa-Sigel, Art Instructor
Marissa Onaga, Teacher
Barbara VanDerKamp, Teacher
Victoria Villegas, Teacher
Pua Kaai
Lilinoe Sterling, 'Ike Hawai'i
Heather Tyrrell, Teacher
Add'l Observers See p4

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2020.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Dr. Whitesell.
- Approval of the July Minutes was moved by Dr. Strawser and seconded by Dr Hunter. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Director's Report: Winston Sakurai

- Dr. Sakurai welcomed a group of staff members to present on his behalf. He thanked the staff for working tirelessly throughout the summer.
- Ms. Kemsley thanked Dr. Sakurai for all of his work on the return to school. She and Ms. Powers Pye presented tasks and associated challenges. Task #1: create H&S guidelines for student arrivals & dismissals, temperature checks, & staffing. Task #2: plan for teaching students new routines and procedures. Task #3: create daily schedules for arrivals, dismissals, and specials. Task #4: creating class lists. Task #5: determining how services (SPED, counseling, speech, OT) will be provided in a safe way, limiting exposure to students and staff. Task #6: Determine how classrooms and outdoor spaces can be safely set up to keep students and staff at a safe distance. Task #7: decide on a model for reopening (virtual, blended, in-person, etc.) Task #8: rethinking how instruction will be delivered. Task #9: planning changes/alterations to campus (changes to water stations, add hand-washing stations.) They presented a long list of associated tasks that are still pending, emphasizing the time that these will take.
- Dr. Sakurai thanked the teachers for their presentation and then gave each teacher the opportunity to share how they felt about returning to school. Ms. Kemsley did not feel safe. Ms. Onaga did not feel safe. Ms. Powers Pye has wavered back and forth, but over the last two weeks has felt much less comfortable. Ms. VanDerKamp is ready to be back in school and feels safe. Ms. Villegas feels safe. Ms. Petosa-Sigel feels safe. Ms. Sterling did not feel safe. Ms. Tyrrell did not feel safe.
- Dr. Whitesell asked the teachers if the unsafe feeling would dissipate with additional time, or if it was inherent in the reality of COVID. Dr. Strawser asked what the additional time would be used for. Dr. Sakurai explained that unions were requesting an additional two weeks. Dr. Strawser asked how this would provide enough time for the tasks presented by the teachers, and suggested a September 1 start date to give time to see how other schools are working and to adequately prepare and plan. Dr. Underwood expressed concern about delaying to September because the possibility of tourism opening may result in school closure in

September, and he would like children to be able to establish some face-to-face relationship prior to delving into a possible virtual learning situation. Dr. Strawser explained that a tourism-related shutdown would likely happen at the end of September, still allowing for the face-to-face instruction. Dr. Hunter talked about her surprising success with virtual learning in her profession as a University Professor. She is not comfortable with opening on the same day as tourism opening. Dr. Sakurai dismissed the presenters.

- Ms. Chapman made a motion to delay the start to September 1. Dr. Strawser seconded and moved to amend the motion to August 25. Dr. Oliver seconded and asked if the staff needed 3 weeks, 4 weeks, or 5 weeks to adequately prepare. Ms. Young asked if it was meaningful to give 3 versus 4 weeks. Dr. Sakurai said that the first 2 weeks of school were half days anyway, so it was an easy transition from half days to no school. Dr. Hunter asked if we are allowed to have less than the required 180 instructional days. Dr. Sakurai explained that by legislation, charter schools are exempt from the 180 day requirement. Discussion continued regarding the appropriate amount of time for adequate preparation. The amendment to move to August 25 had 2 votes and the amendment did not carry. The amendment to move to September 1 received 1 vote and did not carry. Dr. Underwood moved to delay the start of school to August 18 as requested by Dr. Sakurai and the teachers or in alignment with a later date as set by the DOE. Dr. Hunter seconded. The motion received 4 affirmative, 2 opposed. Motion was approved.

3. PCNC Report: Espie Chapnam, PCNC

- Ms. Chapman moved to attach the Castle Grant letter. Dr. Strawser seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

4. New Business: Dr. Whitesell

- A letter composed by a group of HSTA members regarding reopening concerns was received by the Governing Board. Dr. Whitesell asked if these concerns could be addressed with the additional time. Dr. Sakurai said he agrees with the concerns in the letter and is committed to addressing them. He is confident that he can work with the teachers. Dr. Hunter agreed to provide a response to the letter. Dr. Sakurai also suggested weekly updates from the administration to the board. Dr. Strawser added that just over half of our HSTA members felt unsafe returning to school with the current plan. Dr. Hunter suggested using reserve funds to make these staff members feel safe. Ms. Chapman moved to table funding discussions to closed session.

5. Adjournment: Members adjourned to closed session at 7:55 PM.

Next Meeting Scheduled for August 26, 2020, 6:00pm via Zoom

Submitted by Callie Lewis, Scribe

Be it resolved that:

- The Board approves the minutes of June 24, 2020.
- The Board approves delaying the start of school to August 18 as requested by Dr. Sakurai and the teachers or in alignment with a later date as set by the DOE
- The Board approves attaching the Castle Grant letter to these minutes.

In witness thereof, the undersigned members of the Board have duly executed this resolution on July 22, 2020.

Philip Whitesell, Espie Chapman, Eun Strawser, Celia Miner, Cindy Hunter, Jim Swieter, Laura Young, Jared Underwood, Jill Oliver

Additional Observers (list may be incomplete as observers were able to enter and exit throughout the meeting)

Angela Xoinis

Lindsey Lowe

Melissa Iwamoto

Bo Voskia

Liz Hernandez

Mimi Ishikawa

Christina Millard

Lynn Zinsius

Nadine Souza

Heather Kerkering

Maile McKay

Natasha Skoberla

Kristin Ball

Mandy Lemes

Rebecca Tang

Libby Ho

Mari Phillips-Ligsay

Sylvie Rusay

Lindsey Lesar

Mary Greaney



July 21, 2020

*Closing the achievement
and preparation gaps
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward
O'ahu communities*

Ms. Espie Chapman
Development Coordinator
Kaohao Public Charter School
140 Alala Road
Kailiua, HI 96734

Dear Espie,

Re: **Grant #4234**
Award of \$75,000.00 to Kaohao Public Charter School for facilities support to increase STEM and project-based learning opportunities for students, covering the period from December 15, 2017 to June 15, 2020

This letter serves to acknowledge receipt of the final report, including narrative and budget reports for this grant. The report has been reviewed and it satisfies the requirements of our grant agreement. Our file for this grant is now closed.

We are pleased to have been a part of such a successful program. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Alex Harris
Vice President of Programs

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