

# Ka'ōhao Public Charter School

## Minutes of Board Meeting, October 28, 2020

### Board Members Present:

Philip Whitesell, President  
Winston Sakurai, School Director  
Celia Miner, absent  
Espie Chapman  
Jim Swieter, Treasurer  
Jill Oliver  
Laura Young, Secretary  
Cynthia Hunter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Jared Underwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### Community Members Present:

Callie Lewis, Scribe  
Tehani Ebalei, KSO  
PJ Foehr, Charter School Commission  
See Attendees at End of Document

### 1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2020.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Phil Whitesell.
- Approval of the September Minutes was moved by Ms. Chapman and seconded by Dr. Hunter. Motion approved unanimously.

### 2. Community Input

- Ms. Tehani Ebalei voiced support for school opening and confirmed that parents are ready to step in and help in any way possible.
- Mr. Jeff Tobias expressed appreciation for our teachers. He explained the difficulties of distance learning for working parents.
- Mr. Michael Martin is hoping for in-person learning to begin soon.
- Dr. Eamon Filan would like to know what the plan and hold-ups are for getting the kids back in school for in-person learning.
- Ms. Norma Creps explained that there is rush to go back to normal, but things are definitely not back to normal. Teachers are at highest risk, and if they are sick and unable to teach, it will be too much hardship with our students. What does the in-person school look like? The plan has not been communicated. She would prefer 5 days of teacher-led Zoom versus 2 days in-person and 3 days on Acellus. She recommends providing live streamed classes.
- Mr. Tom Oliver suggested a clear risk assessment and a variety of options. We need to get comfortable moving from risk avoidance to risk management. If this is clearly communicated, parents can make informed decisions. Leverage community power.
- Ms. Aga Conboy teacher are doing their best, but please consider reopening in-person learning with urgency. The online environment is unnatural and prohibitive. Communication has been vague, and they'd like to know why we can't open and what will happen next. Requests clear and consistent communication.
- Ms. Autumn Biegel noted extreme effort and hard work made by teachers. She feels equity can be overlooked because of our privileged community. Not all families can afford tutors and caregivers to help with the shortfalls of distance learning. Families who are at a disadvantage have a front-row view of this disadvantage. She would recommend opening face-to-face as soon as possible.
- Ms. Downing Lu has been grateful to the teachers, director, and board for their efforts. She noted that cases on the mainland are surging at unprecedented rates. She appreciates a cautious approach to reopening. Proactively preventing cases is far more preferable to treating them. Oahu follows mainland cases 4-6 weeks, so this would predict a surge in November/December.

**3. KSO Report:** Tehani Ebalei, President

- About \$4000 was collected from parent donations. They have done 2 appreciation days and a Malasada Monday for the staff. They are preparing budgets and ready to fund efforts to return to school.

**4. Director's Report:** Winston Sakurai

- Dr. Sakurai extended a mahalo to our parents, board, and especially our staff.
- Dr. Sakurai presented several reasons for returning to campus: students thrive in-person, vulnerable students need the support, love, and care of in-person instruction, importance of having all students on campus, lower numbers of cases on Oahu, greater contact tracing available, new research on low spread in schools.
- The goal is to meet the Hawaii State Department of Health Guidelines for school so that we can reopen. He proposed a staggered return to campus from November 23 through November 25. The way the school has been reorganized allows for smaller cohorts and 6' distance. He will continue the Ka'ohao Virtual Academy for families that do not wish to participate.
- Dr. Sakurai will send out progress reports on the efforts to reopen the school multiple times a week to all stakeholders. These will include our requests for support from our community.
- Dr. Oliver asked why that week was chosen instead of the week prior or after. He said that after discussion with teachers, the 23<sup>rd</sup> was what made the most sense allowing for enough time to prepare. Dr. Hunter asked Dr. Sakurai to provide clarifications on the DOH metrics for allowing school to be in-person versus learning from home. She confirmed that these metrics are publicly available so parents can keep an eye on where we are as an island. Ms. Young asked if the DOH case procedures would be followed or if we would refer to the Ka'ohao School Health and Safety Handbook. Dr. Sakurai confirmed that the most stringent guidelines would rule. Dr. Underwood asked if the H&S guidelines will be available for parents to review, and Dr. Sakurai confirmed. We are making some adjustments based on state guidance. Ms. Young asked if the task list will be made visible to parents. Dr. Sakurai confirmed.
- Dr. Hunter moved that the Ka'ohao School Governing Board approve the updated plan for reopening school on November 23, 2020, with the provision that all guidelines and requirements in the Ka'ohao Reopening Handbook of August 1, 2020, and the Guidance for Schools issued by the Hawaii State Department of Health, revised October 18, 2020 shall have been met. The Director, Governing Board, teachers, staff, and KSO shall make a concerted effort to meet the intent of all teacher requests for maximum safety prior to reopening school. The Director will communicate with all stakeholders regularly (2-3 times/week) as to the status of our task list and the likelihood of being fully prepared for opening on November 23rd. Ms. Young seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

**9. New Business:**

- Dr. Whitesell said that he had talked to Ms. Celia Minor regarding this motion, and she expressed her support.

**7. Adjournment:** Members adjourned at 7:10 PM.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for November 18, 2020, 6:00pm via Zoom**

Submitted by Callie Lewis, Scribe

**Be it resolved that:**

- The Board approves the minutes of September 23, 2020.
- The Board approves the updated plan for reopening school on November 23, 2020, with the provision that all guidelines and requirements in the Ka’ohao Reopening Handbook of August 1, 2020, and the Guidance for Schools issued by the Hawaii State Department of Health, revised October 18, 2020 shall have been met. The Director, Governing Board, teachers, staff, and KSO shall make a concerted effort to meet the intent of all teacher requests for maximum safety prior to reopening school. The Director will communicate with all stakeholders regularly (2-3 times/week) as to the status of our task list and the likelihood of being fully prepared for opening on November 23rd.
- In accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of Ka’ohao School, Section 2.10, Action Without Meeting, the Ka’ohao School Governing Board has unanimously approved the following action, effective November 12, 2020. The Ka’ohao School Governing Board hereby authorizes Director Winston Sakurai to immediately purchase and/or lease two 8 x 40 deluxe offices from Containers Hawaii.

In witness thereof, the undersigned members of the Board have duly executed this resolution on September 23, 2020.

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

Attendees: 104 parents, unable to list all