

Ka'ōhao Public Charter School

Minutes of Board Meeting, February 18, 2021 – via Zoom

Board Members Present:

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

Community Members Present:

Callie Lewis, Scribe
Angela Xoinis, KSO
Brett Fillmore, Parent
Add'l observers listed on p4

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2021.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Phil Whitesell.
- Approval of the January Minutes was moved by Ms. Chapman and seconded by Dr. Oliver. Motion approved unanimously with one abstention.

2. Community Input

- Mr. Brett Fillmore explained the need to differentiate between the responsibilities of the Board and the Director. He is still interested in how wider policy resolution and change happens at the school, but he will be approaching the Director directly in the future. He is not concerned, and he appreciates the Board responding to his letter. He is concerned about the idea of having school goals that are readable and widely known. Communication is different now, and with the loss of the Vintage Lanikai Gala, he isn't seeing a larger goal. He understands that the primary goal right now is to stay open during a pandemic, but he believes that other goals (academic, financial, etc) are still meaningful. He loves seeing the energy at the school when he volunteers for recess supervision.
- Dr. Whitesell thanked Mr. Fillmore for his interest and time in the school. As far as goals, the WASC accreditation requires specific goals, and the plan for achieving these goals. WASC checks on the goals each year, so it isn't that we are just cruising along, but we are continuously working on these. He didn't want to get into each item on the list or make anyone think that these are things that the Board doesn't pay attention to, but he is correct that many of the issues that he brought up are the responsibility of the Director.

3. KSO Report: Angela Xoinis, Membership

- We are grateful for the parents who have signed up to volunteer, but there are still slots available. We have been sending reminders out to parents via the Remind App.
- Our next movie night is in the works.
- The KSO is starting to plan a staff and volunteer appreciation week. It will look different this year, but they still want to do something special to honor the staff and volunteers.

4. Student Council Report: Jack Geier, President

- Mr. Geier spoke about 5 topics:
- StuCo Community Ball - reduces talking when not being asked a question, allowing for better listening as a group.
- Building Identity - working to learn more about each other beyond names.

- Kindness Challenge - led by School Counselor Ms. Powers, every student has a challenge to do 10 random acts of kindness
- How he has grown through participating in StuCo: He has helped to make sure each student feels their opinions are heard and considered. He has helped improve the school community by talking to younger people about cleaning up the school playground and bench areas. Student council members should be good role models for our students and community.
- Masks - Mr. Geier wants to remind students to wear their masks properly. Dr. Whitesell asked about Mr. Geier's observation of students wearing masks. Mr. Geier said that he sees it as a big problem. He sees many students wearing masks improperly (above chin or below nose.) This is especially important in the Library where 6th Grade is located. The Library has A/C, so the lack of outdoor ventilation makes it even more important to wear masks properly.

5. Director's Report: Winston Sakurai

- We did have a positive COVID-19 case from a staff member. We were able to do contact tracing and reported it to the DOH. The DOH did not recommend any campus closure. There were no other cases on campus, which indicates no spread.
- The CDC released new guidelines on February 12. The guidelines are more restrictive, but our school still meets them. The HI DOH will be revising their guidelines as well, and these will limit the quarantine requirements of vaccinated individuals who may have close contact with a positive case.
- The DOE announced that they will restore 10% of the SPED funding. The BOE met this afternoon and passed the ESSR II funding, which will give ~\$9M to charter schools.
- Enrollment for Trimester 3 is 282 in F2F and 40 in KVA. We were able to place all students that requested F2F in their preferred learning model. This is a busy season for the office with new registrations and GE applications.
- The Cafetorium project is in the design phase. The tentative timeline is for construction to begin in November 2022. It would start with renovation on the current cafeteria to provide an administrative space. The architects will be at the school on Monday to look at the grounds and finalize their designs.
- Dr. Sakurai requested additional portables to provide classroom space that allows for social distancing, provide space that will lapse during construction of the Cafetorium, and eventually provide space for SPED and science/technology. Our SPED teacher positions have increased over the past years from 1.5 to 3. It has been very difficult to find enough space to support our SPED team, which is why we purchased the 2 portable offices last fall.
- We are currently looking at a space plan for next year. Our enrollment is fluid and unpredictable. We are not sure if our students will need to be spaced at 3' or 6' for 2021/2022. The current HSTA MOA indicates 6'. At 3' we are short 2 classrooms, and at 6" we are short 7 classrooms. Dr. Sakurai presented a quote from Hawaii Modular. The cost is ~\$137K per classroom with a 2-3 mo lead time. Permitting is required and might present a challenge. Dr. Sakurai believes that we could use the ESSR II ~\$235K funding for this. There is a possibility of a larger ESSR III in the near future. Given that this is a long-term need, he is seeing this as a capital improvement project. Mr. Sweiter moved to authorize Dr. Sakurai to purchase and install 2 portable classrooms on campus. Dr. Underwood asked if there is a not-to-exceed cost? Dr. Sakurai said that he believes the project can be completed for \$320K, including electric. Ms. Miner seconded the motion with the budget inclusion. The motion to authorize Director Winston Sakurai to purchase 2 portable classrooms at a total cost not to exceed \$320K is approved unanimously.

6. New Business: The Board acknowledged the receipt of a letter from a staff member regarding a personnel matter. The letter will be discussed in closed session.

7. Adjournment: Members adjourned to closed session at 6:55 PM.

Next Meeting Scheduled for March 18, 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom

Submitted by Callie Lewis, Scribe

Be it resolved that:

- The Board approves the minutes of January 28, 2021.
- The Board authorizes Director Winston Sakurai to purchase 2 portable classrooms at a total cost not to exceed \$320,000.

In witness thereof, the undersigned members of the Board have duly executed this resolution on February 18, 2021.

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

Amy Brislin
Christina Millard
Colene Geier
Keri Powers
Mimi Ishikawa
Walter Holsonback