



**Days Creek Charter School K-12  
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 14, 2024**

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Diane Swingley, Joanne Gordon, Anna Rickards, Rebekah Sawyer, Joe La Fountaine, Cathy Knapp, Jonathan Lopez

**Call to Order** - Meeting called to order by Diane Swingley at 5:33pm

1. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Approval of Agenda** - Anna Rickards made the motion to approve March 14, 2024 Charter Board agenda. Joanne Gordon seconded the motion. No discussion. Voted: All in favor.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Anna Rickards made the motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024. Cathy Knapp seconded the motion. No discussion. Voted: All in favor.
4. **Public Input** - None
5. **Student Input** -
  - a. Kaleigh Loiodici and Ruby Geiger were not present due to a track meet. Natalie Harris reported that spring sports have started. The softball team played against several teams for a pre-season jamboree. She believed that they did pretty good. The baseball team played the other day and did well. The track team has had a large turn out this year.  
She reported that the lunches have been a lot better. They have plenty of food and are enjoying the selection of food and have been impressed with current updates.  
The end of the third quarter is quickly approaching. Students will be starting the fourth quarter after spring break. Prom will be May 3rd. The location of it has yet to be determined.
6. **Report from the Executive Director, Joe La Fountaine**
  - a. Jonathan Lopez reported on all the current happenings with the Days Creek FFA program. He believes that the program over the past year has made a lot of positive improvements. A ninth grader recently reported to him how she enjoys being part of FFA because for the first time she's really feeling part of the school.  
Middle school students have been participating more. He believes this will help in the long run as the program continues to improve. Just recently 17 students attended the leadership development contest. The participants were mainly 8th and 9th graders. He reported that they did a great job and have shown a lot of growth. Their willingness to practice before, during, and after school is a huge factor of their success.  
Mr. Lopez also reported on the upcoming 50th anniversary. Mr La Fountaine, Mr Ellis, Mr Hopfer have been helping him with planning the event. The event will be an open house with the banquet at the end. Former and current members of the Days Creek FFA, community, students, staff, and others are invited to come. There will be tours in

the classroom, exhibits in the barn and greenhouse. It will be held April 27, 2024 from 2:00pm to 6:00 p.m. Diane Swingley asked Jonathan Lopez about areas he is currently focusing on for professional development, specifically she asked if he was getting trained in order to certify our students for tractor driving. He is looking at doing that this summer which would include tractor and forklift certifications. As part of the publicity subcommittee for the Days Creek Charter Board, Joanne Gordon offered to assist Jonathan Lopez with getting the word out.

- b. Mr. La Fontaine reviewed the District Board agenda.
- c. The District Board of Directors gave the go ahead to begin the planning for the PreK program. Mr La Fontaine had talked with several other superintendents of districts who already have the program. As of right now the district should be able to go forward with getting the facility ready and potentially hiring a teacher.
- d. The District Board of Directors approved the 2024-25 calendar. The District Board of Directors had asked Mr. La Fontaine to present the proposed 2024-25 calendar to the junior class. The junior class voted 10-2 in favor of the presented calendar.
- e. The District Board of Directors is looking into starting the process for a bond and creating a Political Action Committee (PAC). The district board of directors will be seeking input from Straightline, a company they had used previously, to assist in the process.
- f. The District Board of Directors adopted Policy IKC - Class Rankings. Currently the policy does not contain language of class rankings being determined by weighted or unweighted GPAs. Weighted GPAs have college courses weighted heavier in the overall GPA. Diane Swingley asked if all students have access and the ability to take classes that have a heavier weight. Anna Rickards and Cathy Knapp reported that high school students can take CTE college courses.
- g. Proficiency based credit for Spanish was discussed. Mr. Nieves has been aligning the Spanish standards and curriculum. He is looking at an opportunity for a student to demonstrate proficiency to pass the class. This would be an opportunity for a student who is bilingual to demonstrate proficiency and get high school credit.

## **7. Report(s) from Cathy Knapp**

- a. Update Science Adoption - Cathy Knapp reported that the elementary and secondary teachers reviewed curriculum from various publishers. As of now the elementary teachers believe that what they have through the Foss kits are aligned with the curriculum standards and with supplemental materials such as Mystery Science they are able to thoroughly teach the content they're supposed to be teaching. The teachers had just completed aligning the standards with the materials they currently have, so they felt confident that the current curriculum covers all the standards.

Mr Flerlage, the secondary science teacher, had been working with Carolina Biologic to pilot one of their programs. Cathy Knapp recommended that Mr. Flerlage attend the next Charter Board meeting to report on the Carolina Biologic program and how it has aligned to the work he has done aligning standards to the curriculum.

- b. Cathy Knapp shared the STAR Reading data with the Charter Board. The STAR Reading assessment measures comprehension and vocabulary skills. Students are making great progress.

## **8. Action Item and Executive Director Evaluation, Diane Swingley**

- a. Diane Swingley brought forth the Classified Employee Resolution recognizing the classified employees for all their hard work at Days Creek Charter School. Joanne Gordon made the motion to approve the Classified Employee Resolution. Anna Rickards seconded the motion. No Discussion. Voted - All in favor.

- b. Diane Swingley brought forth a change in the Days Creek Charter School Bylaws. The proposed changes would be to decrease the number of parent/ patron members from five to four voting members. This would also change the total voting members from eight to seven.
- c. Joanne Gordon made the motion to update the voting members for the parent / patron from five to four with the total changing to seven voting parent / patron members as noted in the Days Creek Charter School Bylaws. Anna Rickards seconded the motion. No Discussion. Voted - All in favor

**9. Reference - Discussion** - There were no discussion items.

**10. Standing Committee Reports -**

a. Subcommittee Reports

Joanne Gordon updated the Charter Board on the progress made by the committee reviewing other school district websites. The committee reviewed five websites. Elkton School District was the website the committee liked the most. Michael Signe, the district's IT coordinator, is familiar with the company who developed their website. He reported that their platform works well with Synergy, the student information system the school district uses. Mr. La Fontaine, reached out to the developer of the current website. He passed away and his son has taken over the business.

- b. The Recognition of Excellence committee has been working on a plan for an end of year recognition. Cathy Knapp and Anna Rickards will report on this at the April 1, 2024 meeting.

**11. Adjournment** - Anna Rickards made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Knapp seconded the motion. Voted - All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Dated this March 30, 2024  
Respectfully Submitted by:  
Cathy Knapp