

Days Creek Charter School Board of Directors September 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Charter Board Work Session Minutes

Diane Swingley called the work session to order at 5:30pm
All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Charter Board Members Joanne Gordon, Matt Giles, Cathy Knapp, Diane Swingley
District Board Representatives - Charlie Pritchard
Administration - Joe LaFontaine and Cathy Knapp

Goal discussion -

Joe LaFontaine recommended that the Charter Board of Directors work to increase participation on the Charter Board. He recommended the Charter Board work to fill the spots currently available on the board. Diane Swingley agreed that this could potentially be a good goal.

There was further discussion around whether or not this should be a larger goal of increasing community involvement at the district level.

The question was posed as to additional ways to recruit more board members / community patrons to be involved at the school. The members present did agree that there is a need to actively pursue recruiting additional members.

The Charter Board of Directors would like to work with the District Board of Directors in recognizing students. There should be recognition monthly at the District Board Meetings to recognize students. Ideally there would be a student from the elementary (k-5), middle school (6-8), and high school.

Motion was made to adjourn the work session - Matt Giles made the motion to adjourn the work session. Motion seconded by Joanne Gordon. Voted - All in favor

Days Creek Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order by Diane Swingley at 6:06pm
All recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Charter Board Members Present - Joanne Gordon, Matt Giles, Cathy Knapp, Diane Swingley
District Board Representative Present - Charlie Pritchard
Administration Present - Joe LaFontaine and Cathy Knapp

Agenda Approval - Matt Giles made the motion to approve the September 6, 2023 agenda.
Motion seconded by Joanne Gordon. No additions or deletions. Voted - All in favor

Meeting Minutes - Joanne Gordon made the motion to approve the minutes from August 2, 2023 and August 29, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Matt Giles. No changes or discussion. Voted - All in favor.

Public input - None

Appoint Student Directors - Members of the Charter Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ruby Geiger (10th Grader) and Kaleigh Liodici (12th Grader) as student representatives. Natalie Harris (11th Grader) was re-appointed to serve a second year.

Student Representatives Reports - Ruby Geiger reported that she likes having the 7 period schedule everyday. It is still early in the school year, but she thinks it is off to a good start. Natalie Harris reported that she is enjoying the start of the school year. Kaleigh Liodici also reported that the school year has been a good start. She believes that the meals served for students at breakfast and lunch can be improved. Other students have raised concerns, as well. She reported that breakfast is mainly sugar and not a lot of protein. In addition lunch is ok but it would be nice to have more home cooked type of food.

Report from the Executive Director - Joe LaFontaine

Review of the District Board Agenda - Mr. LaFontaine is seeking the boards' opinion of the training by Mr. Cotton. He also is seeking input on whether or not there should be additional training. Diane Swingley requested that the charter board be included in any upcoming training. Mr. LaFontaine also reported -

1. That a half time music teacher has been hired. The teacher hopes to begin working on instrumental curriculum (like recorders)
2. CTE Development - The CTE team will be working on establishing additional CTE pathways that tie directly with programs / certifications offered at Umpqua Community College. It would be great to also add apprenticeship programs that would allow students to get started in high school and finish after graduation. Part of the plan is to look at potential classes that can be offered during the 2nd semester of the 2023-24 school year. Currently there are some openings in the schedule that could potentially be filled with CTE classes.
3. A new class that is being offered this year is High School Leadership. The class is being taught by Mrs. Matchett. The students will be working on spreading school spirit, learning about leadership, and community service.

Report from Cathy Knapp

Timeline for Science Adoption - This is the school year for adopting a new science curriculum district wide. The Oregon Department of Education is currently reviewing science curriculum from publishing companies. They should be releasing a list of approved curriculum by December of 2023. The district should be able to start reviewing curriculum in January or February of 2024.

Standing Committee Reports

Communications Report - Joanne Gordon asked for guidance on what can put on facebook. Joe LaFontaine recommended that she go through school staff to post items on facebook and other social media outlets.

Capstone Experience Recap

Matt Giles reported on the Capstone Experience. There is a document that links to what students are expected to complete in high school. It breaks down expectations for each grade level. Future work would be to add additional things to do in the sophomore and junior year. There has been an effort to provide additional writing experiences. The goal is to weave the writing experiences throughout high school for all the students. Writing is mainly completed in their English courses.

Matt Giles is excited that we are bringing ownership of the Capstone back to the staff from the Charter Board jurisdiction. The Charter Board will retain oversight. He has had the seniors keep all the important papers in their own box. Charlie Pritchard asked how soon the students are informed of their grade level's expectations. Matt Giles explained that freshmen and seniors are easy to explain the expectations from the onset of school beginning because he teaches them. It is harder to get to the sophomores and juniors since he does not teach them. It is recommended that we do a better job at involving parents in the process.

Diane Swingley recognized, on behalf of the Charter Board of Directors, Matt Giles for his work on developing the Capstone Project. She is grateful that the staff / teachers are involved in this. Joe reported that staff would be working on mapping curriculum at the upcoming professional development day (Friday, September 8, 2023). Ultimately throughout the school year the teaching staff will be working to weave curriculum and standards together across all the grade levels. This should offer clarity for teachers to understand what they are expected to teach. Charlie Pritchard recognized Matt Giles for the content he is teaching students and how it is actual content that is worthwhile to students.

Action Item

Resignation of Matt Giles as a member of the Charter Board - Matt thanked the board for the opportunity and reported how much he has enjoyed his time on the board. He is pleased at what the Charter Board has been able to accomplish during that time.

Joanne Gordon made the motion to accept the resignation from the Charter Board by Matt Giles. Motion seconded by Cathy Knapp. No discussion. Voted - All in favor

Adjournment -

Joanne Gordon made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Knapp seconded the motion. No discussion. Voted - All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm