

Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School
Annual Board Meeting

Monday, April 29, 2024

Board members present: Ryan Forsythe (secretary), Terry Davis (chairperson), Grace Hughes, Cody Zook, Lucy Becker (student representative); Emily Kelley (student representative);

Via Zoom: Amanda Selden-Dixon

Excused Absence: Angie Graves

Guests: Teacher Leaders Kaci Elder, Melissa DeNardo, and Elishua Ferdon; Mindy King

Facilitator: Terry / Minutes: Ryan

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm.

- Welcome and land acknowledgment.
- Additions to the agenda: Mindy would like to speak about student voting members under Board elections. Grace motions to approve the agenda as amended. Cody seconds. Motion passes. Unanimous.
- Approval of minutes from April 1 meeting. Motion to approve minutes by Cody. Seconded by Lucy. Approved. Unanimous.
- Public comments. No public comments received.
- Board Elections
 - Each of the Board members, including our student representatives, plus our potential member introduced themselves and shared a little about themselves and their thoughts regarding board service at KCA.
 - Student voting members. Mindy shared that from information she gained from the Oregon School Boards Association, there are a few schools (none charter schools) that do have student representatives, but they are all non-voting members, so they do not have voting rights. The Nonprofit Association of Oregon replied to her that they do not have any specific regulations regarding minors on the board of a nonprofit. Forty out of 50 states have no regulations, 4 allow and 6 do not allow minors on a nonprofit board. It's still a murky question. Their advice is to ask if our insurance policy indicates anything. They also suggested a nonprofit legal resource that will allow 30 minutes of free legal advice. Kaci is meeting with our insurance broker this week and will be able to bring questions about this.
 - Terry shared some of his experiences with the Board. At the Dome School he learned about child-centered teaching and has done a fair amount of reading on child development. He shared numerous ideas he's connected with as a board member, including some of Piaget's philosophy, the importance of community for teenagers, and neural networks. Elishua also shared how Terry's ideas connected to the concepts of constructivism and experiential learning.
 - Ballots passed to members for voting.
- Reports
 - Student Report - Student Reps
 - Lucy and Emily shared a report outlining fun, new things, and unexpected bumps in the road. Their experiences ranged from the fall art intensives to a community

class where the class bonded over experiences of being bullied. Lucy shared experiences from other students that they feel safe and comfortable here. Emily shared the experience when the teachers jumped in to cook lunches (they particularly enjoyed Ryan's soup). They shared positive classroom experiences like creative writing, and the experience of after-school clubs like the cinema club with Rainbow. They shared about field trips like career expo, \$8 mountain, ice skating, and the Redwoods, and the experience of putting on their own radio show. Also: Wizard day, bring your cat to school day, fancy drink day. And they shared about personal growth that they have seen in their friends. They shared that they love office manager Kayla who has been a great addition to the family. They also shared about the winter theatre intensive that brought the students closer together. Emily shared that she found her people with the Hatfield Futures Project. Lucy shared that we are working on developing a sister city program. She can't wait to see what the students can accomplish next year.

○ Academics & Curriculum - Kaci

- Kaci focused on the lens of our four guiding principles and ways that we have strive to meet these principles through our academic classes. For example:
 - *Creative Expression is a Human Right*: extra credit art-in-math projects; artworks based on observations in social forestry science classes; Health class personal paintings; intensive classes like sculpture, painting, photography, playwriting; students allowed to do art during classes; visits from local art.
 - *Rural Communities Count*: in math, students explored the cost per area for each local pizza place; biological systems is growing starts that will be donated locally; in Health and PE students share their experiences within our community; Hatfield team shared about our area here with the program in Portland; in government the curriculum is localized as much as possible, such as focus on supreme court through the lens of the recent Grants Pass case.
 - *Multiple Perspectives Build a Better World*: radio class approaching media literacy and the issue of sampling and copyright infringement from multiple perspectives; social forestry has examined land use from diff perspectives; in world literature and global issues, they have examined creation stories from around the world and last Tuesday the class met through zoom a North Korean dissident; anonymous questions jar in health class open up a variety of student perspectives.
 - *Youth Leadership Grows Genuine Conference*: students were able to develop their own dress-code policy in community class; in geometry class, students unhappy with the curriculum were given the chance to pick a new book—they also got to demand that all math assignments be on pink paper (and Ryan happily agreed); in radio production, there is a student-produced weekly radio station with a revolving cast of student DJs; in Health, Melissa always allows students to choose topics that interest them, which results in true human care and compassion.

- Kaci also shared our focus this year on making students feel safe this year. We feel that we've done a strong job with that, and will continue to focus on that, but having that experience allows us to transition to focusing more time in the next year on our academic program. Kaci also shared the strong improvement we've seen from the tutoring program, and our plans to expand next year.
- Community Engagement - Elishua
 - Elishua shared regarding several of our community engagement initiatives:
 - East River Street Gardens. We've been engaging with Joe Flaherty, helped make a sign, and have used the space for curriculum
 - In-class greenhouse. Will be used to donate starts in the community.
 - Earth Scouts. We have been collaborating with them for our Spring outdoor experiential education intensive. Science class helped with the process of pole-peeling, to incorporate into the skylodge.
 - KXCJ-LP. We have a weekly radio show, "KCA Domination Station," that has been ongoing, along with plans in the works for future collaborations.
 - Northwest Youth Corp. We are working with them to explore summer credit for KCA students who have been accepted.
 - Orville and Mary Camp. Our social forestry class will tour their place, as part of a survey curriculum.
 - Wild Rivers Ranger District. A local botanist will help with our Spring intensive.
 - Siskiyou Permaculture will share storytelling as part of the Spring intensive.
- Location/Facilities - Melissa
 - Melissa shared that next year we will be moving the school to 139 Caves Avenue, the site of a former discount grocery store. Melissa shared a map of where walls might go. Melissa, Grace, and Cody have served as the facilities committee and have conducted a number of site visits to the space. Soon we will be able to spend some time moving out things there such as heavy equipment that is in the space. The hope is to try to get everything moved before the week of May 20. In two weeks, we plan to bring the students to the space to have a dream session, to let our students see the space and brainstorm the future school.
 - We will be able to keep our phone number and internet service (and phone/internet provider)
 - We still plan to have a strong connection to Rusk Ranch Nature Center. We couldn't get out there this year due to not having school buses. Our hope is to take advantage of the space in the future by having an outdoor experiential based classroom in the future, possibly with a temporary classroom.
 - Ryan shared an update regarding the Four Way Community Foundation grant in which we requested funding for the facility project. A board member from Four Way spoke to Ryan and shared a few questions, but overall to Ryan it sounded positive.

- Financial Report - Ryan
 - Ryan shared a financial report comparing the budget-to-actuals for the period July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. The report indicated areas where we are way below budget (such as salaries, health benefits, and repairs/maintenance) and areas where we are well above budget (such as library books and our food program). Overall, by 9 months into the fiscal school, we expected to have \$259,835 in expenses and \$284,595 in income, for a total of \$24,760 toward contingencies. Income is very close to budgeted, as we have \$287,296 in income for the 9 months but only \$195,761 in expenses, allowing us to put \$91,535 toward contingencies. Ryan also responded to questions regarding what certain line item costs were connected to.
- Old Business:
 - Final Vote on 2024-25 budget. Ryan re-presented the budget that was presented last month. Terry motioned that we accept the budget as written. Cody seconded. No discussion. Motion passes. Unanimous.
- New Business:
 - Announcement of Board Election Results. Ryan announced the election results. Everyone has been elected. Welcome, Mindy, as our latest board member! Thank you, everyone!
 - KCA Annual Report to Three Rivers School District (May 15, 6pm). Kaci encourages everyone to come out, as Kaci and Melissa and Lucy and maybe Emily too all provide an annual report to the school district, at the school district office in Murphy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

- 5pm Monday May 20, 2024*
- 5pm Monday, June 24, 2024

* = denotes meeting held on a different Monday this month due to holidays or school schedules