

Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School  
Organizational Board Meeting

September 8th, 2025

Board members present: Grace Hughes (chairperson), Cody Zook (treasurer), Mindy King (secretary), Taryn Roberson (staff representative), Amanda Selden-Dixon,

Excused Absences: Whitman Franklin (student representative), Kava Rose (student representative)

Teacher Leaders: Ryan Forsythe, Melissa DeNardo

Facilitator: Gracie / Minutes: Mindy

Guests: Sally Clements, Kelly Demuth

Meeting called to order at 4:45pm.

- Welcome and land acknowledgment.
- Additions to agenda. Melissa would like to add Student Conduct Handbook to the agenda. **Mindy motions to approve the agenda as amended. Terry seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Approval of minutes from August 4th meeting. **Gracie motions to approve August 4th minutes. Cody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Public comments. No comments received.
- Reports
  - Financial Report
    - Account balances. Ryan reported on our account balances. He shared that our bank account totals as of today included \$45,931.99 in checking and \$231,183.09 in savings for a total of \$277,115.08.
    - Statement of activity for July shared and reviewed. Ryan shared a couple changes to how things are classified which simplifies the way we see it and will be how they are formatted moving forward. The large payment from state sources of 92,058 is due to the double payment that we receive once a year.
    - Budget to Actual document for 2024-2025 was shared by Ryan and he explained how to read the spreadsheet including the breakdown on the back page which includes explanations on items that were larger than expected. He also noted that while it looks like we made a lot more than we spent, it is because we have received the funds for grants that have not been spent yet. Sally asked if there was other grant money coming in and Ryan explained that the federal one is our major one and we have a few

others in process. We also have a few grants that we apply for every year but not until spring.

- 2024-2025 Audit update. Our audit is officially in process as Ryan has received the list of material required and that is due the first week of October
- Community and Culture
  - Enrollment
    - We have one space currently available Freshman-9 Sophomores-16 Juniors- 20 Senior- 18 (4 5th year seniors) Wait list:1 freshmen 0 sophomore 4 juniors and 4 seniors. Our one freshman on the waitlist turned down the spot. Taryn shared that there has not yet been a Teacher Leader meeting to decide what the best step is, given that we are still in the period of the year that we see new requests come in from Freshmen who change their mind after trying IVHS
  - Community Connections
    - Taryn shared about our intensives, float building, circus performing, multi media sculptures from old Piano parts and Earth Scouts doing earth building permaculture.
    - We had a float in the parade that included a following of our circus performers and “Future KCA” cuties. We won an award for most spirited!!
    - The students have been making use of Ariana’s donated art supplies for collages. Clay is going to do a community drive for instruments
- Facility
  - Melissa shared the last and final bill from Abby Rose for \$1,685. **Gracie motions to approve the final bill, Mindy seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
  - Melissa shared that after a lot of back and forth about different internet providers that we are still with IV Data. They are going to give us a different setup that will expand our signal, will include a power back up and will cost \$500 down and an addition of \$15 to the monthly bill. We do still need to purchase our own firewall system and so would need to hire an IT person to manage the systems. Cody inquired about the added cost of staff to do so and questioned whether or not this was actually a saving. Melissa and Taryn clarified that the Zippy account was more expensive and also still required purchasing a firewall. Cody asked what Three Rivers does, Taryn shared that they have tried diligently to contact Ron Saunders at the district to no avail. Sally shared that her experience

communicating with Ron has been very difficult in the past and thinks the board should continue moving forward, she also asked if we had anyone in mind. Taryn shared that the position will have to be posted, even if we do have people in mind. Cody is going to look into companies that could provide that service instead of hiring an employee.

- Lease Amendment update, Mindy shared the very short amendment to the lease regarding fire insurance being carried by the school in exchange for our new space. It is going to cost about \$5000-6000 for the year, which everyone feels is pretty great for the space. **Mindy motions to approve with an edit from property insurance to fire insurance. Gracie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Taryn shared that we are in the process of installing an intercom system that allows Kayla to make announcements, links to the police and fire, and has different lights based on what kind of drill/emergency is happening. We will be having our first active shooter drill soon. They also shared about our cameras having been installed throughout the building with overlapping coverage areas. The cameras are motion and sound activated, but we have opted out of the option to follow subjects because we want to allow our kids to opt out of AI. We have finally installed the front doors! Kaci got custom accordion doors into the kitchen as well as a door to block the hallway.
- Student Report:
  - Our students are both working. We discussed the student rep terms again and scheduled a visit from the board for Tuesday the 23rd at 2pm to come to community class to present some info to the students about rep terms and board roles.
- Staff Report
  - Taryn shared that Jan has been meeting with our seniors and our ‘motivated’ juniors. We are having issues with a couple students who have done classes at RCC and due to budget cuts the city bus no longer has a route to drop students at RCC campus. We discussed some potential solutions, school buses and activity buses, etc. We have some new staff members as our Community teachers, Forest, Shannon, Charity and Joe and they are all on-ramping pretty well. The teacher leaders have been trying to provide the support the community teachers need to develop relationships with the students and classroom management. Melissa shared that Sara has volunteered to do a Friday inservice for Community Teachers to further develop those things. Terry recommended those new teachers to observe the teacher leaders.

- New Business
  - Melissa presented the board with the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Last month we approved the Student Handbook that is more policy based. This document is a little more legal lingo, Melissa has adjusted the Three Rivers version to reflect our Restorative Justice policy. Melissa is requesting that we take the month to review with the intention of approving next month. Gracie asked if this was something for the kids to read and sign to agree to, Melissa clarified that this is legally required and so not optional. Sally asked if parents read these, Melissa stated that they encouraged them to and that they are posted to our website when approved.
  - Gracie wanted to ask what our fundraising goals are in terms of where the money needs to go, senior trip and prom. The Teacher Leaders expressed that Yearbook, Class Photos, and Field Trips would also be good fundraising areas. Taryn also expressed an interest in fundraising for a 'swag bag' for the students at the beginning of the year with stickers, art book. Gracie wants to focus on the Senior Trip. Discussion was briefly had about a full school trip vs senior trip, likely will be a senior only trip. She held a fundraiser here over Labor Day weekend to help clear some excess from our storage unit. Gracie also discussed getting the seniors involved in fundraising for themselves as well. Gracie will head the fundraising committee, Mindy will join with her and Amanda will be in touch. Taryn also suggested reaching out to the Parent NonPTA.
  - Financial Review Committee. Mindy is going to head the committee and is hoping that we can meet once a month to balance the sheets and verify reports. Cody will join that committee as well, Ryan is also happy to be a part of that. We will meet on the 26th of each month
  - Our policy has changed to make the Community Teachers hourly instead of contract. The personnel policies are currently not formatted to year round employees and so Ryan is making some adjustments. He would like to bring his revisions to the first meeting of the Finance Review Committee to have an initial look before presenting at the next meeting.
  - The Discrimination Complaint Procedure was read and discussed. Cody wanted to clarify who the appeals decision maker is, we consulted with Sara who is our Civil Rights Coordinator. She will clarify that those positions will all be Teacher Leaders appointed by her, she will amend the document appropriately. **Gracie motions to approve the edited discrimination policy that reflects the appointment clarification, Cody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
  - The new Cell Phone Policy was reviewed to reflect the executive order that requires phones to be off and away from first bell to last. This has also shut down open-campus as we can't let the students leave without a way to contact them. Gracie asked how it was going so far and it sounds like mixed reviews. Sally inquired about the 504 and IEP exception and Taryn discussed that the Teachers

are looking into some work arounds for students who for example are used to having music on the headphones during focus time. **Mindy motions to approve the new Cell Phone Policy with the revision of expectation bullet #2 to say “required” instead of “asked” to be turned off. Gracie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**

- Sally introduced herself to the board and gave some background about herself. She will be taking a big trip and won't be back around until December but would love to join us then. **Gracie motions to add Sally to the board upon her return in December, Cody seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Kelly Costin-Demuth also introduced herself and expressed interest in joining us as well. **Cody motions to add Kelly to the board. Gracie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Old Business
  - Kaci has tabled the Rusk Ranch contract as she has not connected with Patty Downing to complete discussion and details of the contract.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35

#### Upcoming Meetings

- August meeting: 4:30pm Monday October 3, 2025
- Septembert meeting: 4:30pm Monday September 8, 2025\*

\* = denotes meeting held on a different Monday this month (other than 1st Monday) due to holidays or school schedules.