

Kalmiopsis Community Arts High School
Organizational Board Meeting

November 3rd, 2025

Board members present: Grace Hughes (chairperson), Mindy King (secretary), Taryn Roberson (staff representative), Amanda Selden-Dixon, Kelly Costin, Drake Peters (student representative), Lucy Becker (student representative), Cody Zook (treasurer, via zoom), Terry Davis

Teacher Leaders: Ryan Forsythe, Melissa Denardo (via zoom), Sara Kinstler

Facilitator: Gracie / Minutes: Mindy King

Meeting called to order at 4:33pm.

- Welcome and land acknowledgment.
- Additions to agenda. Mindy pointed out one change under New Business, the Lunch Drop-off policy has been removed and Mindy added an item to introduce an idea for the board to consider and give some thought to. **Amanda motions to approve the agenda as amended. Grace seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Approval of minutes from October 6th meeting. **Terry motions to approve October 6th. Amanda seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- Public comments. No comments received. Unofficially, Grace shared that there were a lot of positive comments from the public at our Bagging Days at Grocery Outlet.
- Reports
 - Financial Report
 - Account balances. Ryan reported on our account balances. He shared that our bank account totals as of October 31 included \$11,287.13 in checking and \$181,692.68 in savings for a total of \$192,979.81.
 - Statement of activity for September was shared and reviewed. Ryan shared that salaries/hourly are our biggest expenditures. He noted that while we have a negative income that last month we received a state fund just before our statement and this month will be just after.
 - Community and Culture
 - Enrollment
 - We have filled one of our vacancies last week and are anticipating one more addition in the next week. Grace inquired about class standing and Trayn clarified that one is an upper classman as we lost one and the other new student is a sophomore. This brings us back to our 64 student limit.
 - Impacts of Government Shutdowns

- 1. Our CSP grant is a federal grant and mostly the entire staff has been laid off. Fortunately we are in the position of having pulled a lot of our funds and the remainder are in an in between account so no longer in federal hands and we should be able to access it if needed. However, we were in the process of requesting that some of our funds be reallocated to things other than what our original grant application had allocated it to.
- 2, Special Education has been shut down, which should not affect us til next year.
- 3. We are a Title 1 school which is a federal program, the good news is that we already received the funds for this year.
- 4. The Civil Rights Department has been shut down, meaning there is no one to investigate any claims at the federal level. However we do still have some support at the state level.
- 5 SNAP benefits, 40% of our student population households rely on food stamps and we are trying to be ready to deal with that through alternate means. There is an emergency food pantry. Fortunately we already provide breakfast and lunch for the kids. Grace thought we could have a family dinner once a week so the families get fed, Lucy and Drake shared that family potluck was an idea the students had. Terry inquired about our students still making sandwiches for the park
- Title 1 TAP (Targeted Assistance Program) and budget. This is a Title 1 program we already have funding for, they look at student demographics and educational needs and it is why we do the MAP testing now. Kaci shared the statistics of our demographics, notably our student population is about 38% self identifying members of the LGBTQ2SIA. We also have a large population of students who are considered in unstable housing (McKinney-Vento status). Kaci reviewed our TAP budget, we have funds for two Title 1 assistants, we have 2 family nights.
- High School Success Agreement - this is our funding for Project Youth Plus and the RCC program, the funds are already here and guaranteed. Drake is participating, he really enjoys it, sees other students there and feels that the staff there is very supportive. Jan Taylor is our ProjectYouth Plus and is hosting a Senior Night and will be having Senior Presentations in December and Jan would love the board to join if possible.
- Student Support Services - this still falls under the same program as our High School Success Program, this is the grant money that we have for counseling services. We have contracted with Journey Home to provide one to one, and small group support services. Cody inquired about the

funding going to Journey Home and there not being a license. Taryn clarified that they are providing the immediate support when instances happen during the day, freeing themselves and Melissa up during the day. They also shared that the services also include rides or help in finding food or connecting to other social services. Taryn also clarified that Journey Home employees are working hourly, not receiving lump sums. Grace inquired about how that fell on us legally, Kaci shared that they are covered under our insurance as a sub-contractor and they have their own insurance as well. The students also requested Michael Franklin from there as they know him already from teaching and feel very comfortable and safe with him. Terry inquired whether the students would be going there or staying here, for now they are staying here and sharing the office with Jan but we are looking into whether or not our insurance would cover them going there. Cody noted that he would just like to make sure we are doing things above board and since Michael is a teacher here that it has the possibility of looking like favoritism. Taryn clarified that the contract is with Journey Home not with Michael directly. Ryan shared that in a rural environment we are very limited in our pool of candidates so this is a good option for us, and also given that we are in a small community that it is a little inevitable that our community teachers and community services may overlap. Cody inquired about how there is a contract in place without board approval, Kaci clarified that in the spring the board approved the funds in the umbrella grant money and not further board approval was required..

■ Community Connections

- Drake shared that the band that played the Dome School Dia de los Muertos party gave the KCA students free entry and a lot of students went and had a great time!
- Leadership and Service class was able to organize and put together an all school field trip to Fort Vannoy as well as our first school event.
- We had our annual Halloween Dance on Thursday of last week and it was a blast. I was so proud of my class for decorating and organizing the entire event. A special shout out to Athena for painting the incredible backdrop for our photo booth!!! Last week was exhausting but super fun.

○ Facility

- After 3 ½ weeks of loud work throughout the entire school day, we finally have a new roof!

- We are in need of some air purifiers, our ventilation system is not great here and it is cold and flu season and the classrooms could all use one. Terry volunteered to look into ODE's requirements for the standards of what level of purification is required so that we can determine what kind of equipment to purchase. Some ideas of where the money could come from were shared, we agreed that we will start with finding out what our needs are first.
 - Taryn reminded Cody that they do need the official floor plan drawn up with fire exits marked. He will get back to that.
- Student Report:
 - Lucy shared that Drake and herself took on the first student led Community Class. They held a Socratic Circle on how the students can improve the school and how students can hold each other accountable. All of the comments were typed up and being kept confidential. Lucy shared that they had students participating who have never shared during a teacher led class. They will keep doing this to keep the students communicating and working together, in fact their next one is tomorrow.
 - Drake shared that leaving that class the student body was very excited, connected and ready to tackle these problems.
- Staff Report
 - Taryn shared that Melissa, Kaci, Ryan and themselves attended a Teacher Led School Conference in Ypsilanti a couple of weeks ago. The teachers are feeling very filled up and inspired by the conference. They received a lot of information about how to handle some of the administrative tasks, got a lot of data about what works, made connections and learned what is working for other schools. Through the conference we have a sibling school in Virginia (that has been open since 1971) that we can reach out to anytime for guidance, advice or support and have even been invited to visit. Then Ryan went to a Math Conference last week and Kaci, Taryn, Melissa and Sara went to a Northwest Conference for Teaching Social Justice. Lots of schools were really impressed with us and what we are doing here.
- Fundraising Committee Report - Gracie shared that we did our first weekend of bagging at Grocery Outlet, which she had offered to match their first day but they raised so much that it was out of her budget. Fortunately Daniel Demuth helped her match. They made \$486 on the first day and \$327 the second day, plus a \$500 match from Grace and Dan. There are some students interested in vending at Lorna Bryne so that will be happening and Gracie is going to see about setting up a way to pre-order centerpieces as she hasn't heard back from the Dome School about available space at Holiday Bazaar. Kaci shared that we did a Can's for Kids

and we signed up for 2 back to back weekends in May. Taryn also shared that the students thought about doing a Lapathon (like they used to when they were at the Dome School) or a Danceathon as a fundraising option.

- New Business

- Sara shared an agreement with the Redwood Foundation Center, this is for an account for KCA Scholarship which is important because a lot of scholarships that are available out here have a prerequisite of being an IVHS student because they were the only school in the valley when the parameters of the scholarships were first outlined. Sara is asking for some fundraising ideas to fundraise for this account so that we could start giving away scholarships this year. We have stipulated that it does not have to be a traditional path so it could also be a trade school or apprenticeship program. Ryan inquired about a flyer that could be given to people who wanted to donate, Sara will find out if there is an option for a flyer. There is a donate button on their website. Sara will look into other options for getting the word out.
- Gracie asked if everyone read the Restorative Justice Revision. **Lucy motioned to approve, Drake seconded. Vote passed unanimously.**
- Mindy asked the board to consider whether or not she needed to take a break from the board in the spring when she teaches. She was under the impression that Terry had taken a break when he taught, as she did last spring. She really wants to continue on the board and doesn't feel that the bylaws prohibit a community teacher from serving on the board. She also expressed that she felt she would be able to abstain from votes pertaining to her bosses or her position to maintain neutrality. She asked the board to give it some thought and read our bylaws to see if they read it differently. Terry clarified that he stayed on the board while he was teaching pottery.

- Old Business

- Grace asked if everyone had time to look through the Student Rights and Responsibilities Standard for Student Conduct. **Mindy motioned to approve the Student Rights and Responsibilities Standards for Student Conduct. Grace Seconded, vote passes unanimously.**
- Kelly talked with Daniel about a back up generator for the school per the board discussion last month and has more questions than answers. Largely about determining what our power usage needs to be for the generator to keep on the essentials, potentially needing an electrician who can figure out what draw back up lights, the router and the water pump would have. Daniel did have a suggestion for someone we could hire to determine and assist with that. Kelly asked for some direction in who she can check in with between board meetings. Taryn explained that Melissa is our Facilities Chair so Kelly and Melissa will put their heads together and figure out how to move forward from here.
- Kaci presented the board with a proposed contract with Rusk Ranch for lot 1101 to have as KCA outdoor science center. If we pay the property taxes this year and then we would document that we are using the space for education purposes then

we won't have to pay that tax and our lease would be \$1/year. The tax bill is \$752. Grace inquired if there is a vision for the space, Taryn explained that Forest is teaching our place based science class this year and has been taking his class there regularly, which is our vision is having it as our outdoor science space. Grace inquired about the option of other spaces that are public and free, Taryn clarified that the other spaces aren't necessarily as bus accessible and Sara clarified that it has been part of the KCA vision from the beginning to use Rusk Ranch in this way. She also noted that we could build something there, gives us somewhere to host events, and the contract allows for use of the rest of the property which has a lot of different spaces. Grace asked about insurance coverage, our insurance does cover it as a field trip space and the Rusk Ranch has their own liability insurance as well. Kelly asked how large the property was, Kaci clarified that it's just under 4 acres. Really comes with a lot of possibilities, Mindy pointed out that our graduation could be there, given that we barely had enough space at Forks last year, Lucy thought it could maybe be a good option for our end of the year camping trip. **Mindy motioned to approve the contract with Rusk Ranch Gracie seconded and the vote passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Upcoming Meetings

- January meeting: 4:30pm Monday, January 5, 2026
- February meeting: 4:30 pm Monday February 2, 2026