



PROMONTORY

school of expeditionary learning

Creating the Great Thinkers of the 21st Century

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2020

At 2:00 PM

Attendance – Virtual Zoom Meeting

Trustees:

Amber Edelman
Michelle Flynn
Mindy Johnson
Lisa Holgreen
Michael Engh
Dorothy Dobson

Visitors:

Nancy Moyle
Gwen Andrus
Amanda Walker
Amber Schenavar
Beth Povey
Cameron Anderson
Heather Williams
Naomi Williams
Jan Whimpey
Glenna Petersen
Lynette Reeder
Mary Beth Farrer

McKell Cottrell
Michelle Moyer
Debbie Payne
Missi Conover
Shawna Ulm
Susan Bennett
Valerie Neslen

Officers:

Paige Kearl
Celeste Muhlestein

Director:

Jennifer Blaine

CALL TO ORDER: 2:08 PM

2:08 Roll Call: Nancy Moyle

2:09 Prayer: Amber Edelman

2:10 Welcome: Amber Edelman

- Quote and talk about resilience

2:12 Public Comment

- No public comment

ACTION ITEMS

Early Literacy Plan:

- Jennifer Blaine explains Early Literacy Plan for 2020-21 school year.
- Michael adds that this is a well thought out goal and these numbers have been evaluated by several people at the state level.

ACTION: 2:20 PM: Michael motions to approve the Early Literacy Plan for the 2020-21 school year. Mindy seconds.

Amber – aye

Dorothy – aye

Lisa – aye

Mindy – aye

Michelle – aye

Michael – eye

Voting is unanimous. Early Literacy Plan approved for the 2020-21 school year.

2020-21 Fall Reopening Plan

- Jennifer shares her plan and her screen stating that Promontory will be having a modified schedule for fall of 2020-21 school year. Half of the students will come on A day (Monday/Tuesday) and the other half will come on B day (Wednesday/Thursday.) Students will be working remotely from home on the days they are not at school. Fridays at school will be for students who are invited to attend the school for small group work and remediation as needed. All other students will be working from home. Sanitization processes are explained as well.
- Michael questions who will perform the sanitization processes and how many times per day? Suggests that if we get parent volunteers we would not have to ask teachers and aides to do more and not have to hire more people to do the sanitizing. That could help the teachers and staff focus on teaching.
- Michelle states concerns about students on distance learning being able to have the “Promontory” experience.
- Jennifer says that one way to stay true to our mission and vision is by having CREW daily check-ins. That way our remote students can have that social and emotional learning; CREW is what sets Promontory apart, along with adventure and expedition. She notes that parent support will determine how successful this can be.
- Amber says that we are hoping this is temporary and we will work to get students back in the classroom full time as soon as it is possible to do so and to follow the state’s guidelines at the same time.
- Michael asks the clarifying question about how when they approved the distance learning for Promontory that the distance learning plan was a commitment for the entire school year.
- Jennifer responds that yes, it is a commitment for the year. If we got to a place where everyone could come back to school and no students/parents wanted to continue in the distance learning, then we could end it. But if people were wanting to continue, we would carry it through the school year.
- Mindy says that many people have ideas to keep the distance learning true to the vision of Promontory. She asks to explain the processes of how we got to the decisions of split schedule.
- Jennifer held meetings parents, teachers, board, staff, etc and many ideas ranging from all day vs split vs online and offering all three options. Jennifer and staff members were trained on the ways that the State of Utah wants schools to mitigate risk and asked that plans for complying would be turned in by August 1st for state approval. There were more meetings, conversations, and Zoom meetings. The Bear River Health Department gave feedback on our possible plans. We took into consideration the social/emotional, physical, and mental health well being of students, families, and staff. We chose the A/B schedule because it was the only way we could see to meet the social distancing guidelines and still offer some in-school options for our students to help their social/mental health.
- Amber notes that the results of the parent surveys were very close, but that the majority wanted distance or the A/B schedule. The majority of teachers wanted the A/B schedule.
- Lisa doesn’t want to go into the fine details, but wonders about how the at-home wellness assessment will work if they will be too hard for some of the families to fit into the busy morning schedule. Answer: the state gave a list of symptoms to check for. Parents can fill out the form in the morning and staff will print a list of students who have been checked each morning. Students who have not been able to be screened will have their temperature taken at the door in the morning.
- Amber clarifies that it was in the state requirements to establish a plan to assist families in conducting symptom checking and access to thermometers; we are then supposed to monitor staff and students.
- There will be one teacher for distance learning. How will he manage different grades? He has taught two years in Washington and the last year began digital with his class using Google Classroom and communicating digitally. He will separate the crews into age groups and we will take it as it goes.
- The question of if we are going to use the Red, Green, Yellow, Red phases from the state in this plan. No, those were planning tools to help us make our guidelines, but they will not be in the presentation for the town hall meetings.
- How will it be communicated to parents when there is a case at school? Answer: we will be working with the health department. They will guide us on what we need to do as a school and we will follow their guidance.

- They have their own committee working on that right now. Tracing and informing cases is one reason we are doing controlled groups of students – we should always be able to know who was around whom. FERPA privacy laws will be followed so we won't be able to give names or clues as to who has the illness.
- Amber says we will have small-group fieldwork and adventure days within our own county. We will be able to use the cafeteria as we implement social distancing as much as we can.
- Mindy says that in the beginning, we felt best about A/B schedule, but then when considering the hardships on families and their schedules and how taxing it would be, we had decided to come back full time. But when it became clear that we could not come back full time and at the same time protect students and teachers in the best ways available with everyone back in the classroom and following the health department guidelines at the same time, we went back to A/B and feel very good about it.
- Debbie is in charge of putting together the A/B schedule so that families are together and is trying to see if geographical location can be a factor so that carpooling can still be an option.
- Paige asks if there will ever be a place in the school where masks will not be required.
- Amber responds that we are working with the health department and the state for clarification on this question. Everything we've seen says they must wear them at all times. The health department has asked us to wear them at all times.
- Mindy notes that Governor Herbert has a common sense directive meaning that those with disabilities and similar issues can use shields and other forms of social distancing if needed.
- Valerie asks if there is still a 180-day requirement. Our calendar has the same start and end date, but the 180-day requirement has been waived. We have not seen that any of the state tests have been lifted.
- Lisa asks Celeste about a mask crew. Celeste says there is a mask-sewing crew chaired by two ladies. People are volunteering to sew. Material will be provided and donated. Jennifer can get Celeste a number of masks to shoot for.
- Michael asks if now that the plan will be posted, if parents look at the A/B schedule and decide to switch to distance learning, will we be able to handle the influx of students wanting to switch? We will get a second distance learning teacher if needed?
- Jennifer says that we will anticipate moving current teachers to distance learning if necessary. We are not planning to hire an additional teacher until we see the official registration numbers.
- Michael notes that in his experience in public places, children have done very well wearing masks and that if the adults model good behavior, the children will do fine.
- Dorothy notes that her autistic nephew has done very well with a mask.
- Amber reminds that teachers, staff, and parents will set the stage for success or struggle with mask wearing.

ACTION: 3:16 PM

Dorothy motions to approve the 2020-21 Fall Reopening Plans for Promontory School. Lisa seconds the motion.

Amber – aye

Dorothy – aye

Lisa – aye

Mindy – aye

Michelle – aye

Michael – aye

Voting is unanimous. The 2020-21 Fall Reopening Plan is approved.

2020-21 School Calendar Adjustment

- Jennifer explains the calendar adjustments: Friday is short day because on the alternate day schedule the two groups were not working out evenly with Wednesday being the short day. If Friday is short day, it's almost exactly even.
- We are working on Back-To-School Night.

ACTION: 3:24 PM

- Michelle motions to approve the 2020-21 School Calendar with proposed revisions. Mindy seconds the motion.

Amber – aye

Dorothy – aye

Lisa – aye

Mindy – aye

Michelle – aye

Michael – aye

Voting is unanimous. The 2020-21 School Calendar with revisions is approved.

Closed Meeting: 3:25 PM

- No closed meeting

Amber: Thanks to the teachers, office staff, parents and employees. It's been an incredible experience to watch people that love our school and are invested in it. We appreciate all that everyone has done. Additional gratitude is expressed by board members.

ACTION: 3:30 PM

- Mindy motions to adjourn the meeting. Michelle seconds the motion.
 - Amber – aye
 - Dorothy – aye
 - Lisa – aye
 - Mindy – aye
 - Michelle – aye
 - Michael – aye
- Voting is unanimous. Meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting is August 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm.