

School Board Meeting

October 1, 2015

Roll Call:

Board Members: Kami Orr, Susie Bassett, Heather Baker, James Montgomery, Tiffanie Owens, Susie Scherer

Absent: Eric Ansah-Antwi

Non-Board Members: Elizabeth Stone, Rachel Turner, Melissa Herbert, Heather Walker, Sherrilyn Griffin, Matt Lovell, Tyler Schvaneveldt, Shirley Fahringer

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent of Agenda

James Montgomery – motioned to move the Consent of Agenda until after the Board applicants' interviews, **Susie Bassett** second, Approved

Introduction of Board Candidates – Each candidate was asked to give a brief summary of their background and why they want to be a board member.

Rachel Turner – Lives in City Center – presentation background – owns and operates **Price Match with Rachel** - wants to be a part of this great school – good at coming up with ideas – good relationship with local businesses - good at delegating and raising money – know how to explain that it is in the businesses' best interest to donate. She likes the school because there is more in-depth learning – more creative in topics – wants students to love learning – keep the bar high for learning.

Heather Walker - Her children are attending now, but she knows the pain of trying to get in – Children like school here – they know every teacher and every teacher knows them. Background in accounting and is the accountant and HR person for Applicant Pro in Eagle Mountain. She likes the level learning that The Ranches Academy offers.

Melissa Herbert - grateful for all that her children have received in this school – Bailey was here when the school started – loves the level learning approach – has a Masters in Mental Health – worked on sexual abuse cases – worked for the Attorney General on primary cases – served on Community Council Board. Happy to be on the board – love what the school represents – welcome to step aside if someone more passionate wants to serve – sees the school growing in extra clubs etc. – worries we are trying to bubble wrap students at recess – not much to do on the upper school playground according to her student

Elizabeth Stone – oldest child started here and is now in eighth grade – has a sixth grader – 2 fourth graders – they all enjoy school – works at Frontier and responsible to ensure every 9th grader passes math program – good at tracking things – published the FSO Newsletter for several years – at FSO meetings she hears that the Board says no – decided to get involved – complimentary of teachers - concerned about teachers buying things from their own pockets – teacher molded her student who is now an A student in junior high.

Sherrilyn Griffin – moved here five years ago from Philippines – passionate for education – experience with K – twenty-one year old students – looking for a great school – had to pay money in the Philippines for education – wants daughter to achieve her highest potential – students she has met, love The Ranches Academy – has lots of patience working with people- good at organizing – stay at home mom

James Montgomery asked the candidates; we are here in this room for the Ranches kids, and what is best for the group. Would you be able to make hard decisions that affect all of the students not just yours?

Replies:

Heather Walker – works for a company that is growing 62% - in charge of HR and accounting benefits – makes decisions as to what is the best interest for the company as a whole – everyone should look toward and work for the betterment of the school

Rachel Turner – made the decision to go from free to subscriptions – went from 62,00 followers to small handful – spread business from Utah to Texas, Arizona and California – ok'd with not being liked – making hard decisions is part of it

Sherrilyn Griffin – have to make sure decisions are in the best interest of all – Board needs to make sure of what is best for kids here – willing to go for group vs child

Elizabeth Stone – watched School Board make difficult decisions – like to see students have confidence in themselves – kids are future business leaders etc. – parents involved should fix it at home

Melissa Herbert – hardest decisions have been with other people's children – have to do what is best for the family – not making decisions alone ; making them with the group – everyone coming with different decisions and backgrounds to help make decisions

Kami Orr stated that one of the difficult decisions was cutting teachers' benefits. Susie runs the school and follows the charter. As a board they don't run school, they review the budget and make sure the director is following our charter.

Susie Scherer pointed out that the children of Board members go to the preference pool. All Board members have to adhere to the Confidentiality Agreement.

Tiffanie Owens motioned that the Consent of Agenda be approval **James Montgomery** second.- Approved

Susie Scherer - reported that we have 365 students enrolled at The Ranches Academy and funding will be based on those 365 students - we have plenty of students still on the lottery

Matt Lovell - gave the following budget report - he tries to do a training each time as well as report - if there are any questions, please ask - the budget is salary heavy, 57% goes to salaries - we have excellent building payment, the best in the state - we have a healthy margin - we could run for 140 days if we ever closed the doors - building payment is 7.4% of the budget - rock wall project came from reserves and it really looks great - **under revenues:** federal dollars come in December or January as reimbursements - no longer eligible for \$34,000 as Eagle Mountain is no longer considered rural - our self contained classroom funding will be available later - **under expenses:** salary and benefits under budget - we are always watching health insurance, 6% increase is all this year - health insurance is the hardest decision - repairs and maintenance almost to the maximum - replaced an air conditioner - a lot of repairs were made over the summer - building is 12 years old - snow removal may go up this year - gas and electricity may also go up - technology budget was spent at the beginning of the year - we never have a problem of being full with students.

Susie Scherer - reported that she is working with two others for a charter school in City Center - duplicating our school

Tiffany Owen - stated that the State Board is really ramping up the Budget and Legal Departments - we must be careful with student disclosures

Discussion of the Utah Consolidated Application for 2015 - 2016 school year - make sure it is tied to salaries

James Montgomery - motioned that we approve the Utah Consolidated Application for the 2015 - 2016 school year as reviewed, **Susie Bassett** second, Approved

Discussion of the 2015 - 2016 School Land Trust progress Report

Susie Scherer - reported that the money was used to purchase computers - there are now 13 - 15 computers/Chrome books in each classroom - sixth grade has a 1 to 1 ratio and 1st through 5th grades has a 1 to 2 ratio, both classes share makes it 1 to 1.

Tiffany Owen - asked what type of training was given to the teachers.

Susie Scherer - three members of the staff were trained and then they trained the others.

James Montgomery - motioned that we approve the 2015 - 2016 School Land Trust Progress Report, **Tiffany Owen** seconded, Approved

Discussion of the 2016 – 2017 School Land Trust Plan

Susie Scherer - proposed that we change the allocation of funds to Language Arts and DIBELS toward new curriculum – replace Imagine it with class novels - use some of the funding for professional development. This is the second year of not having to hire new teachers and she feels confident that they are capable of improving Language Arts instruction.

Heather Baker – asked if there was any opposition from the teachers

Susie Scherer – no opposition – teachers excited - explained the survey that was sent out to parents - what is the purpose of homework - busy work needs to be gone

Kami Orr – stated that they appreciate Susie who is always willing to change things for the betterment of the school

Susie Scherer – explained they were trying to make contact with great teachers to help with training in instruction

James Montgomery – motioned to approve the 2016 – 2017 School Land Trust Plan as amended, **Susie Bassett** second, Approved

James Montgomery – motioned that the policies that were sent to them through email be approved, **Tiffanie Owen** second, Approved

James Montgomery motioned that the General session be adjourned, **Heather Baker** second, Approved

Closed Session – discussion of candidates

James Montgomery motioned we reopen the meeting, vote and close the meeting, **Heather Baker** second, Approved

Open Session -

Kami Orr presented the following officers and board members

President – Tiffanie Owens

Vice President - Eric Ansah-Antwi

Treasurer – Heather Walker

Secretary – Heather Baker

Members – Rachel Turner

Sherrilyn Griffin

James Montgomery

Meeting Adjourned