



PROMONTORY

school of expeditionary learning

Leaders of the 21st Century

DRAFT

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2020

At 1:00 PM

Attendance

Trustees:

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

Director:

Jennifer Blaine

Visitors:

Ryan Johnston
Heather Johnston
Chambria Gray
Kassi Capener
Susan Bennett

Officers:

Paige Kearl
Celeste Muhlestein

CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 PM

- Amber Edelman – Welcome
- Pledge of Allegiance – Mindy

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1:05 PM

- Ryan Johnston:
 - Partial to PSEL, have been here since it opened; believes COVID is less extreme than sold to be; likes the hands-on experiences that Promontory offers; feels his kids are falling behind where they could be; believes that living healthy is more important than living in fear of COVID; wants 5-day week if possible.
- Chambria Gray:
 - Children are suffering due to parents' inability to be teachers while kids are in school; feels that parents are meant to be a support to teachers, not a replacement of them; please get us as much normalcy returned as we can; four days are good, five days are best.
- Heather Johnston:
 - Has three students here, but 2-days a week is hard especially for the doing all the online stuff and having to remember all of the logins and such; balancing work and school and family isn't always easy
- Kassi Capener:
 - Thank you for being so flexible, even though this is very hard to do; online crew has been a great thing; thanks for taking this so seriously and getting facts
- Susan Bennett:
 - The A/B schedule has identified patterns in those falling behind with those with little support; can we address these needs in other ways? kids know and follow expectations; four-day week is probably the best option
- 1:21 Public Comment Closed

BUSINESS: 1:22

- Minutes from last board meeting where we voted on the schedule change were reviewed by Amber
- Mindy reviews data she has gotten from the Bear River Health Department
 - CDC ratings:
 - Cases per 100,000 people is in the “orange” range
 - Positivity rate per 100,000 tests is in “orange” range
 - Mitigation is in “green” range
- Jennifer: 2 students at PSEL are in quarantine due to family member positives; four students at BEHS tested positive with 100 students in quarantine there.

Opening Statements by Board Members:

- Amber: feels the best option is to go to 4-day; 16 students in 7/8 are in distance learning and teachers are supporting both
- Michael: presented demographics of the board; likes A/B schedule, but can support 4-day week due to data/statistics that show lower risk; hopes we can come together and move forward together
- Dorothy: offers teacher’s perspective for planning difficulty; can support 4-day week
- Lisa: her student has school anxiety and has thrived with A/B schedule
- Paige: has flipped back and forth on this decision; there is balance in the A/B schedule and risk mitigation can be done; office and admins are amazing and very supportive and communicated more than teachers; we ask kids to do hard things and hopes parents can step up; want to stay w/ A/B so can mitigate risk better
- Michelle: has 3 distance learners so her situation is different, but would hate to see Promontory’s doors close; “green” status does not mean things are under control, so don’t react to that designation; disappointed in the community at large for their responses to decisions
- Mindy: Distance is working with two of her students, but not the third; mitigation is working, data suggests we can handle this but it will be hard
- Jennifer: Gratitude for everyone who is helping with all of this; we are a business and we need to take care of our customers and address their needs; decision from customer standpoint has been made by 65% of parents voting for returning; the 5th day option is a great experiment to do something we never would have had an option to try
- Celeste: represents herself and PoP respondents who have reached out to her
 - Mask mandate is a sore point for many, but we have the mandate from the state we have to follow; outside time for masks breaks is prioritized
 - A/B schedule is liked by many, and suggest Friday is fieldwork day
 - the kids are already adjusted to being home in the event of a quarantine
 - they are worried about their kids staying caught up and not get lost in the cracks
 - bigger families are losing family time due to homework
 - Some rely on breakfast and lunch for healthy meals
 - 2 days a week as a safe place instead of 5 – abuse
 - Want us to pick a plan and stick to it and not flip-flop
 - Misunderstandings surrounded our schedule from the beginning
 - PoP respondents are almost equally split on which schedule we should choose
- Stephanie: looked through all of the comments and understands them all; can we maintain the standards of mitigation to keep school open?

Open Discussion: 2:15 pm

- Moving to 4-days we will still comply with the outline USBe MANDATED
- We continue to do more than what is already required for cleaning
- BEHS has 2,000+ students and only 4 cases and 100 quarantine, statistically that is small; our school would be much more impactful
- Teachers are felling like it’s time to come back, only a few are still nervous, many have switched their choice
- SPED students are most in need of the in-person interaction; OT is costing us a lot more because of the difficulty of managing the schedule
- Self-certifying is working, but temp checks at the door are much faster
- Would we return to A/B? Jennifer: after the second quarantine of a class or of the whole school

- Mindy: please communicate to faculty our appreciation for all they do and that we are here for them to help them however we can.
- **Action:** 3:05 pm: Dorothy motions to ratify board decision to go to 4-day week with 5th day for remediation and leaving option open for distance learning. Mindy seconds the motion.
 - Amber – aye
 - Dorothy – aye
 - Lisa – aye
 - Mindy – aye
 - Michelle – aye
 - Michael – aye
 - Stephanie - aye
- Voting is unanimous. Motion passes.

ADJOURN: 3:07 PM

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