



23264 SW Main Street, Sherwood, OR 97140

**Work Session of the Board of Directors: Monday, July 13, 2015 – 6:00pm
MEETING MINUTES***

I. Opening Items

The Sherwood Charter School Board of Directors met for a work session on Monday, July 13, 2015, in “Building D” of the Sherwood Charter School, located at 23264 SW Main Street, Sherwood, OR 97140.

The meeting was **called to order at 6:02 pm** by Chair, Keith Halasy.

Members Present: Keith Halasy, Kim Young, Stephen Schweitzer, Tee Ramos, Brian Craker, Chris Gerlach, Joy Raboli. **Members Absent:** Jill Rosenberg

Public Present: Brenda Carlson, Liz Vohland

Agenda Additions: None

II. Board Discussion

A. Talking Session with Holly Denman, Executive Director at Cascade Heights Public Charter School

The purpose of this meeting was to speak with Holly, who is the director at a sister charter school that was founded on the same principles as SCS. The goal was to hear about the success and struggles of CHPCS so as to compare with where SCS is 10 years after it’s charter. Highlights from discussion and future considerations include:

- CHPCS currently has 220 students with a wait list of 740. Classes 4 days/week and one field trip/month on a Friday. Remaining Fridays are staff development.
- Passion of the teachers, passion of the parents, fidelity to the curriculum is essential.
- Their school was founded just after Tigard & Sherwood MITCH, with similar formats to Charter Schools in Oregon to Sweet Home, Lebanon and Dallas as well.
- All shared Core Knowledge, RIGGS & Saxon Math as central curriculums.
- Goal of the schools was NOT test scores, but rather fulfillment of their mission.
- Teaching to the “whole child” and MUST partner with parents to be the first educators in order for kids to have success. Reading out loud at home (kids can listen 4 grade levels above what they can read!), and to turn closed captioning on shows and movies to help them read while listening.
- Most Core Knowledge schools don’t have music or art, but CHPCS has both, and integrates them into Core Knowledge sections. Requires special collaboration between teachers to make a success.
- Allow teachers to tutor after school or on Fridays, giving them free space at the school to do so. Also have a Homework Club for \$5/day, and teachers rotate through, each getting to earn some extra money.
- High academic rigor & standards means that families where kids are in sports and music may struggle to have the time needed to be successful in this school.

- Charter schools need visionary leaders who can lead in four areas: Mission lived out in curriculum, lived out in assessment, lived out in instruction, and lived out in environment.
- Do at least one event a month that involves the parents/families and is free. Dr. Seuss night, harvest festival, ice cream social, etc.
- Parents are required to attend a RIGGS class and a “Love & Logic” class at the beginning of each school year.
- They have created a 25-year tracking system from the first 7 years of graduates. Able to track GPA through high school and college, and determine what was good, as well as what school should have taught you. Keep in touch through Facebook, email, surveys, etc.
- Colorado Board of Education has done a full alignment of Core Knowledge to the Common Core objectives so as to help teachers & administrators properly align their curriculum.
- School did John Hunter’s “World Peace Game” together and was a great success!
- Challenged the SCS Board to know it’s mission, and be able to give our Administrator everything that she needs to be successful. Also challenged us to consider getting accredited.

III. Closing Items

The meeting was **adjorned at 8:23 pm** by Chair, Keith Halasy.

The Board will hold a special meeting on July 20, 2015 at 6:30pm for the purpose of discussing current school curriculum in light of recent feedback and reports received. The 2015-16 regular board meeting schedule will also be determined at this special meeting.

IV. Minutes Submission

*Recording and submission of minutes by Brian Craker, Board Secretary (Minutes are considered in DRAFT form until approval by Board of Directors.

NOTE: These minutes were APPROVED by the Board of Directors on Aug. 20, 2015