



**Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School  
Governing Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
Virtual Meeting**

**I. Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Roll Call**

5:04 pm start time.

Quorum established – voting members present were Jill van Nortwick (left meeting at 6:48pm), Andrew Bundy, Wes Burghardt, Connor Brashar, Rahni Kellum, Yuriria Morales, Emily Wilson, Susan Labarge, and Rathi Casey. Non-voting members present were Curtis Holloway, Peter Lukes, Andrew Foster, John Binnert, Michael Vigil, and Liz Titus.

**II. Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2021**

Motion to approve meeting minutes for June 15, 2021, by Wes, seconded. Approved with no updates. Votes For: Jill van Nortwick, Andrew Bundy, Wes Burghardt, Connor Brashar, Rahni Kellum, Yuriria Morales, Emily Wilson, Susan Labarge, and Rathi Casey. Votes Against: None

**III. Public Comments –** (GC policy is to make available 3-5 minutes of public comment per person at the beginning of each meeting. Once this portion of the meeting has ended, the GC will generally not entertain public comments for the remainder of the meeting)

- Ashley Weaver
- Mari De Los Angeles
- Jennifer Dennison
- Jackie Geerts
- Monica Carrick
- Ray Wang
- Quinn Fekete
  - o Quinn asked if there would be some clear guidance on volunteers for the coming school year.
  - o Monica wanted to note her support for requiring mask wearing at the school.

**IV. Standing and Ad hoc Committee Reports**

Policy Review (Susan LaBarge)

- Ray mentioned the Substance Abuse policy was expanded to create more structure and to include vaping.
- It was asked that wording in the Substance Abuse policy be clarified that the policy pertains to school-sponsored events off campus, and that acronyms be spelled out the first time they are used. Several other minor wording clarifications were asked for.



- A question was asked if other THC/CBD type products should be called out besides edibles (lotions for example). Jennifer Dennison, CCPS school nurse, noted CBD products aren't considered in substance abuse, but do require to be authorized through the health office.
- A clarification was asked for on offenses that will have carry over consequences to the next school year.
- For the GoGuardian Policy, it was mentioned there should be some clarification on when the tool can be used outside of class time.
- 
- **Action:** Motion that the GC approve the following policies: Substance Abuse Policy (with requested changes), Device Policy, and Student Internet Use Policy: GoGuardian (with requested changes), by Connor, seconded. Votes For: Jill van Nortwick, Andrew Bundy, Wes Burghardt, Connor Brashar, Rahni Kellum, Yuriria Morales, Emily Wilson, Susan Labarge, and Rathi Casey. Votes Against: None

## V. Executive Director's Report (John Binnert)

- John noted a meeting with two prospective lenders took place this week related to Phase 1. They asked for some additional information which should be provided next week.
- With regard to the portables, lots of prep work has been done. The main holdup has been with the City permit office to allow the concrete pouring to be done. It's still the plan to have the portables set in the next couple of weeks. There is an electrical component on back-order with PNM that will further delay the use of the portables about 6 weeks into school.
- Basketball court will be poured soon, however the shade structure will likely not be ready until the end of September. John noted the shade structure is running about 50 percent over budget due to materials inflation. This also could be an issue for Phase 1.
- John noted the IB results presented in his report appears to be the best performance in at least 6 years for the school. John and the GC members expressed thanks and congratulations to all of the teachers who helped prepare students for these scores despite the pandemic.
- John noted with regard to the ESSER III application, 20 percent of funds are to be dedicated to learning loss. The largest part of the remaining funds are geared towards building improvements, the portables, and FTE/stipend increases.
- A question was asked for clarifications on ESSER III funds and their applicability to low-income, homeless, and LGBTQ students. John highlighted how the funds could apply to all of these groups, and in particular how Phase 1 helps several of the concerns noted.
- With regard to volunteers, the Toolkit guidance is for the school to obtain proof of vaccination status and require volunteers to follow mask guidance set by the school.
- John noted that at the beginning of school (at least the first 3 weeks), masks will be required indoors and not required outdoors. This was decided in order to keep compliance of mask wearing easier on staff (i.e., not having to figure out how to verify who has/has not been fully vaccinated) and due to changing recommendations from CDC.
- It was noted there could be issues with treating vaccinated/unvaccinated individuals differently (different colored badges, ability to not wear masks, etc) as it could cause discrimination.



## **VI. New Business**

- N/A

## **VII. Stakeholder Reports**

- N/A

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

- N/A

## **IX. Board Development**

- N/A

- X.** Vote to close the meeting and proceed in Executive Session  
Discussion and determination where appropriate of Administrative  
Deliberations as permitted by Section 10, Article 15, NMSA (1978) –

- XI.** Vote to re-open meeting and certification that only those matters described in Agenda Item IX were discussed in Closed Session and if necessary, final action with regard to those matters will be taken in Open Session. -

## **XII. Next Governing Council Meeting: August 17, 2021.**

## **XIII. Adjourn**

Roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:53. Votes For: Andrew Bundy, Wes Burghardt, Connor Brashar, Rahni Kellum, Yuriria Morales, Emily Wilson, Susan Labarge, and Rathi Casey. Votes Against: None