



College Prep in a Small School Environment

**Peak to Peak
Charter School**

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**January 8, 2014, 5:00 pm
Auditoria**

The Peak to Peak community will inspire students to fulfill their academic dreams for college, to develop their creative passions and athletic talents, and to become responsible citizens.

Board Members Present: Brad Elliott, Elizabeth Gable, Scott Hudson, Kyle Mathews, Phil Mehalko, Suzanne Ovelman, Kelly Reeser, Greg Richards, Sam Todd, Lisa Walther, Thomas Willetto

Guest(s): [See scanned sheets]

5:03 pm Call to order and roll call; Agenda change requests (Mr. Willetto)

There were no agenda changes.

The Board noted that the Election Committee increased the candidate session from 1 hour to 2 hours.

5:08 pm Administrative business: Approval of minutes and consent items (committee appointments; hires) (Mr. Willetto)

Motion to approve BOD minutes from December 4, 2013 was made by Ms. Gable, seconded by Mr. Richards and approved by the Board 6-0-1. Mr. Elliot abstained from voting due to his absence at that meeting.

Motion to approve BOD minutes from December 9, 2013 was made by Ms. Walther, seconded by Ms. Gable and approved by the Board 5-0-2. Mr. Elliot and Mr. Richards abstained from voting due to their absence at that meeting.

5:10 pm Public comments (Community)

Mr. Todd provided the following Statement Correcting the Misinformation Regarding P2P Food Services Operations:

Peak to Peak's food services philosophy is that no child be hungry while in school. Therefore, all students receive meals regardless of ability to pay. Peak to Peak strives to put our students first in all areas, both academically and with regard to school operations. Our strategic plan symbolizes this by placing "Student Achievement" in the center of the graphic used to help the entire school and community stay focused on our mission and

vision. The food services staff is just as dedicated to this mission as anyone on campus. As with so many areas of Peak to Peak's operation, parent volunteers also play a big part in the cafeteria. Along with those parent volunteers, the Peak to Peak food services staff works very hard to provide a healthy and safe environment for all of our students.

As a School Food Authority, Peak to Peak complies with all state and federal laws governing the national school lunch program, including laws that protect students who qualify for the free and reduced school lunch (FRL) program. Further, Peak to Peak is committed to continuous improvement both academically and operationally and works to identify and correct issues in all areas of its operation. This past fall, Peak to Peak was faced with a unique set of circumstances that included: six new food services staff members, implementing a new food services payment system for parents to fund lunch accounts (switching from PayForIt to MyPaymentsPlus), installing a new food services software program (Horizon) and training staff on its use.

As with any new software installation, problems came to light, and as quickly as possible, the staff worked tirelessly to correct them. One of the problems identified was the inability for cashiers to identify students who qualified for the FRL program at the cash register stations. In the past, the school had used "hand stamping" as a way to notify paying families that their child's lunch accounts were running low. However, when the new software was not allowing cashiers to identify free and reduced students, some FRL students were inadvertently hand-stamped as well. This was a grievous mistake, and when it came to light, the food services staff and the software company worked quickly to resolve the issue. The school immediately stopped the past practice of hand stamping, and the software issue was fixed. This activity took place during the first few weeks of the 2013-14 school year.

Recent statements printed in the media have misled the public and given the impression that Peak to Peak has sanctioned the practice of stamping the hands of students who qualify for the FRL program. This is simply not true. To set the record straight, if any child's account goes to a zero balance, the child is still provided lunch. For secondary students who are not on the FRL program, the lunch fee is automatically funded through a house account and the family can then reimburse this account, if able. For elementary students who are not on the FRL program, balances are allowed to go negative and parents are asked to fund accounts, if able. However, no child is denied a meal, nor even knows what transactions are transpiring. Peak to Peak continually reviews and revises processes to ensure that all students are handled equitably and with dignity and respect. To that end, the practice of placing a stamp on children's hands in order to alert parents/guardians that they are low on lunch funds was stopped early in this past semester. Hand stamping is a common practice used in many schools to alert parents who are not on the FRL program of low lunch account balances. At Peak to Peak, it was never used as a means to identify students who qualify for the FRL program. It is offensive to all those who work tirelessly in food services to suggest they would intentionally do anything to stigmatize or otherwise embarrass any of our students.

All Peak to Peak staff members are looking out for children and standing up for their rights. Our entire staff, operationally and academically, is totally committed to providing a safe learning environment, abiding by the highest ideals of good character, and moving all of our students forward.

Ms. Reeser wished everyone a happy new year and thanked:

- The Peak to Peak custodians for polishing the North Gym floors during the Winter Break and for work on several other special projects that traditionally take place while staff and students are not at school
- The BVSD IT department for replacing and installing the new computers over the Winter Break, and for their excellent support once staff returned to school on January 6th
- Traci Schoeneweis for her work in support of open enrollment
- Carolyn Jannsen for her Auction planning
- The Election Committee for the hours in preparation for the recall election.
- All the staff and community for the increased in K-12 activities (food drive, early release events, PD days, and staff activities)

Mr. Mehalko thanked:

- The Election Committee for all their time in efforts into the recall election.
- Dr. Ed Friedman for his willingness to volunteer and support Peak to Peak

Ms. Ovelman thanked:

- Middle school teachers and counselors for their support during open enrollment.
- Kelly Reeser and John Wilcox for Tech turnover. Many teachers excited to see new computers installed over break.

Ms. Ovelman's hope for the New Year is that 2014 will foster curiosity, nurture potential, and provide the opportunity to celebrate students every day

Mr. Elliot thanked:

- The Election Committee for all their efforts in support of the recall election.
- Traci Schoeneweis and Jen for their support of the Election Committee
- The Board for tireless efforts
- Faculty and Staff for their efforts in providing our students with the best education

Mr. Willetto thanked:

- The counseling staff for supporting college day.

Mr. Willetto's hopes for the New Year are that Peak to Peak successfully moves through transition. He noted that it is the students are the focus and why we serve on this board.

Ms. Walther stated:

- I would like to thank those staff who participated and gave feedback during our BOD / Staff chats in December. It was an extremely busy week and we appreciate your open and candid feedback.

- Also want to thank teachers, staff and students staying focused on most important business at hand during the last weeks of the semester. Thank you for your commitment and strong finish!
- I want to thank my fellow Board members for their extreme dedication and diligence and for working tirelessly, without fail, to do what's best and what's right for the school. For putting our students, and our school, first and foremost above all else in priority, despite extreme adversity and pressures.
- And finally I want to thank the members of Board committees, specifically, HOD and the EC, who've also worked through the holidays for the betterment and pursuits of excellence for the school.
- My hopes for 2014 are that we all return recharged and energized to focus on the significant work ahead of us necessary to achieve and exceed our goals for the year.
- I would hope for increased participation from our community on those tasks and items that help to drive us forward without distraction from those goals. Improvements and clarifications in the areas of volunteerism, participation and engagement, and school funding, budgeting and increased revenue generation, to name just a few.
- Finally, I would hope for continual improvement in our pursuit of better and more productive communications between, within, and among our peers, our staff, our community and the extended community at large.

Ms. Gable thanked:

- Melissa Christensen for her support of open enrollment.

Ms. Gable's hope for the New Year is renewed and restored energy for the entire Peak to Peak community.

Mr. Hudson thanked:

- Instructional, operational for the good semester.
- Election committee for their work.

Mr. Richards thanked:

- The Board members for the extra work

Mr. Mathews thanked:

- Our students and staff finishing first semester with great effort and focus through final exams.
- Counseling team members (Julie Robbins, Kimberly Gannett and Linda Bostic) along with Hillary Miller for recent work on high school RAMP goals to improve student achievement and ACT scores going forward.
- Students who have worked hard to gain access to top colleges and universities around the world including Stanford, Yale Singapore, NYU Abu Dhabi and many more. Every acceptance is fantastic for our students and school.
- High school staff who are focused now more than ever before on character education, grit and perseverance, thinking proactively, assuming best intentions and balance with wellness in mind.
- Wade Kingsbury and Heather Bertarelli for their leadership with our largest group of student council participants ever.

- Linda Bostic for her work with the National Honor Society on diverse initiatives for service this year. They fill this auditoria on Friday mornings and talk about leadership to leave legacies at Peak to Peak.
- Jake Lehr and Carolyn Janssen for winning an Impact Foundation Innovation grant to implement instruction youtube.com videos in math.
- Bob Hettmansperger for earning a \$2,000 grant for Robotics.
- Holly Fenn and the BAASC staff for all they do for our children before and after hours on our campus, including PD days. This is huge for our school, and something that really set us apart from other schools.
- John Wilcox for being a truly dedicated, focused and selfless Director of Facilities. I have come to know how highly he values our school and what a great person of character he and our facilities team are to the school.
- Traci Schoeneweis, Carolyn Janssen and the entire election committee for working over the winter break and the past 30 days to prepare for this week's recall process.

Ms. Carolyn Janssen reported that current year Annual Gift results are exceeding last year by \$35k. She thanked parents for rising above the controversy and alumni for their emails in support of the school.

Ms. Megan Holstein reported that there is now a fund that allows the Peak to Peak community members the unique opportunity to donate to the teacher and counselor bonus pool. Ms. Holstein thanked all her son's middle school teachers (Ms. Cloninger, Mr. Paul, Mr. Spicer, Ms. Jouzdani, Mr. Knox, Ms. Mace, and Mr. Steinbauer) and Ms. Short for helping her family navigate the middle school. Finally, Ms. Holstein requested that anyone in the community could talk with her regarding a prior board member's perspective on decision making.

Traci Schoeneweis provided the following public comments:

- I want to recognize Tracy Wright as a new full-time staff member who oversees campus testing. She is also an alumni. She is doing a fantastic job and we are so lucky to have her.
- Thank you to parent Erin Fox-Smith for creating a wonderful and touching appreciation DVD for our staff. She filmed and designed it all by herself and had our students individually thank our entire staff. It was greatly appreciated & received by the staff.
- We send our condolences to our BVSD nurse Dixie George who unexpectedly lost her son recently. Dixie has been our district nurse for several years and she means a lot to our staff. Our hearts are with her.
- Kudos to high school teacher Clara Quinlan who is sponsoring the high school Tanzania trip. It was very time consuming and stressful for her to plan and purchase 14 airline tickets over the break while she also moved! I am very grateful for all of her time & care on this trip.
- Thank you to Service Council staff sponsors and high school student leaders who are creating and leading great events for our entire student body. We are trying a middle school early release event coming up soon.
- Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents who helped in our open enrollment events. We had great turnout. A big thanks to our student speakers and high school student tour guides who all came to multiple events.

- I want to recognize the entire Election Committee for all of their hard work and dedication to this recall election. They work tirelessly and with integrity to help make this a fair and sound election. Thank you too to Jen Dausvardis and Allen Hankla who are not officially on the Election Committee but helped with the process.

Ms. Christie Whitehead noted that Kevin Drummond (one of Peak to Peak’s founders) passed away this week. Mr. Drummond was an attorney that was part of Colorado’s original Charter movement. Ms. Whitehead also noted that Peak to Peak was in a time of turmoil and she was concerned that the Board has not communicated well with the Community. She was equally disappointed in a lot of the rumors that were being circulated by some parents that were not valid in such a public arena. Finally, Ms. Whitehead believes that Peak to Peak has become awake again with passion that will guide us through this turmoil as it has in the past.

5:36 Campus-Wide Technology Update (Reeser)

Ms. Reeser reported to the Board that 212 new computers (92 new laptops with docking stations for teachers, deans, counselors and librarians and 120 new desktop computers) were installed on campus over the Winter Break. In addition to the new computers, five labs were completely updated and all operating systems have been upgraded to Windows 7. Peak to Peak’s retired computers will be donated or dissected. Ms. Reeser thanked BVSD and John Wilcox for the behind the scene operations. Ms. Reeser noted that Peak to Peak is on a 50% computer refresh cycle every two years from this point forward.

Mr. Richards thanked Adam DiGiacomo for making the computer refresh possible by presenting the BVSD all-in option to the Board last year.

5:40 2014-15 Initial Budget Review (Todd)

Mr. Todd provided the Board with a hard copy Peak to Peak’s audited financial statements from Swanhorst and Company, LLC. Mr. Todd noted that the next Board meeting will be used to vote on the audited financials and reserve credit rating calculation. Mr. Todd thanked Louis Peng for successfully leading the audit for Peak to Peak.

Mr. Todd presented the Peak to Peak budget factors and forecast overview as follows:

- Colorado state economic factors are up (e.g. employment up, unemployment down)
- State 2014-2015 budget estimates indicate higher revenues for education– from \$871M to \$1.3B.
- Multiple factors could contribute to a Per Pupil Revenue (PPR) increase from 3.35 to 3.4%. Additionally, he believes that the Governor Hickenlooper is motivated to increase PPR due to Amendment 66 loss.
- For 2014-2015, PERA is increasing to 20% (currently at 17%). Health care costs up 7%.
- Bond analysis shows not a good time for Peak to Peak to refinance.
- Bond from BVSD could cover campus build-out.

Mr. Hudson requested a timeline for the Peak to Peak budget calendar.

5:48 Preliminary Fundraising Survey Results (Board)

Ms. Reeser reported to the Board on the Fundraising Survey results. Ms. Janice Thorpe commented on the results, since she helped to craft the survey. The Survey results were based on 79 responses. Ms. Thorpe believes that more communications is needed to increase survey participation and to raise community fundraising awareness. She believed the survey response rate may be lower due to timing of the survey (prior to Winter Break).

The Board thanked Ms. Thorpe and others for their effort in support of the survey effort.

6:07 pm Adjourn (Willetto)

Motion to adjourn the board was made by Ms. Gable, seconded by Ms. Walther and approved by the Board 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Mehalko

For the Peak to Peak Board of Directors