



Classical Charter School Association
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MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
By Zoom

1. Call to Order: **Mr. Champaign** called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Champaign, Ms. Meisel, Mr. Shober, Ms. VanRyzin, Ms. Ziemet, Ms. Grosskreutz, Ms. Behm, Ms. Davis (ex-officio) and Mr. Winch (ex-officio). 3 guests.
3. Classical School Mission: *Building a just and excellent educational foundation*
4. Public Comment: None
5. Agenda
 - Approve agenda (Ms. Van Ryzin / Ms. Meisel): All in Favor
 - Approve minutes for June 10 strategic planning meetings: To be taken up at future meeting; minutes are in the strategic planning folder.
6. Staff Proposals (**Mr. Winch**)
 - **Direct Instruction Professional Development Proposal**
 - **Mr. Winch:** Met with NIFDI regarding their professional development. Proposed in-service date; NIFDI wanted a 4-day training; we have 5-days before school; we are looking for 2-day training. Several trainers for different grade levels including some virtual training. **Ms. VanRyzin:** Is travel in addition to the fees? **Mr. Winch:** That is included. **Ms. Meisel:** Can this be recorded for future teachers or other on-going training? **Mr. Winch:** There would be benefit, but I'd guess that NIFDI would not allow direct recording. NIFDI would like a longer-term relationship. We will try to take notes as

much as possible. I have not asked for video-recording. **Ms. Meisel:** Expectation is that all teachers attend? **Mr. Winch:** Yes. **Ms. Van Ryzin:** What will be done for middle school? This is only K-5. **Mr. Winch:** I'd expect some flexibility during the days of training. **Ms. Van Ryzin:** This group has a good reputation. **Ms. Meisel:** Can we find something for middle school? **Mr. Winch:** We will look for this; I am trying to offer some flexibility for middle-school. **Motion: Accept proposal and authorize disbursement of funds as proposed.** (Ms. VanRyzin / Mr. Shober): All in favor.

- **SEL Revision Proposal**

- **Mr. Winch:** We are starting to develop curriculum combining the nine Classical Pillars with existing carry-over. 5-8 minute lessons between 1 and 2 hours, 12-15 Second-step lessons through the school year. We have a blended model this year, for 2024-25. **Mr. Champaign:** For 2025-26, we will rely on the Classical Pillars with support from other curriculum so that we have a "Classicalized" curriculum not dependent on outside resources financially or otherwise. **Ms. Meisel:** I would like to see at least the topics that are expected to be covered. We do not know the content at this time. **Mr. Champaign:** We don't have the specific Second Step lessons picked to support the Pillars yet. **Mr. Winch:** We have a draft that we are working through. We are clearly structuring the curriculum around the Pillars, rather than being driven by a Second Step sequence. **Mr. Champaign:** We did already approve the Second Step before, so maybe this does not need a second approval from the board? **Ms. Grosskreutz:** Second Step was already approved, so I don't think we need to approve specific steps. **Mr. Shober:** Perhaps a partial-approval, on a month-to-month basis? **Ms. Meisel:** I am wondering about the communication to families, and what structure we might hand to each of the grades, especially for new staff. I was worried about the rush to SEL in the past, and do not want to repeat that. I would like to be transparent with families. **Ms. VanRyzin:** There never was a formal virtues curriculum in the past, but we were told to incorporate them into lessons as appropriate. **Mr. Champaign:** We want to move away from Second Step, but we are not fully prepared to move to full Core Virtues. This is a transition year. **Motion: School administration to continue with proposed framework, subject to regular updates on which specific Second Step or other lessons will be included in each Classical pillar prior to being used in classes.** (Mr. Shober/ Ms. Van Ryzin): All in Favor

- **Technology Use Proposal**

- Mr. Winch:** Bell work, and quick assessments, small assignments, “ticket to enter/exit” to track students leaving and arriving in classrooms. Jam Board collaboration activities, and typing drafts and final drafts of essays. Research for art, and collaborative games. Not allowed on Chromebooks: No brainstorming for example. No AI. No large assessments, and not to replace pen-and-pencil assessments. Some increasing computer skills. No financial costs, and Chromebooks not taken home. **Ms. Grosskreutz:** Do we have Chromebooks to accommodate students check-in/check-out? **Mr. Winch:** Yes, we do. **Mr. Champaign:** What are teachers not doing now that they would use them for? **Mr. Winch:** Teachers do not use for quick assessments, and I think this would be useful for this. **Mr. Shober:** What is a “small assignment”? **Mr. Winch:** Students will not be taking Chromebooks for homework. **Ms. Meisel:** I would not be supportive of sending Chromebooks home for any homework. **Mr. Shober:** This sounds like three different proposals: entry-exit, curriculum, assessment. **Mr. Champaign:** Computer skills are only secondary to other uses, so perhaps not “curriculum.” **Mr. Winch:** Perhaps should clarify so that these would be used for formative assessments. **Ms. Grosskreutz:** I think the situation was last year was a special circumstance, and I think many teachers saw it as exceptional. I trust our teachers to make good decisions, and so do not think we need to much guidance. **Ms. Van Ryzin:** I think there was a concern that the one teacher was too much, but other teachers saw that, and understood that it was excessive. Situations like this should lead to a conversation with the principal; in general, teachers have a good sense of the limits. **Ms. Meisel:** I understand that “times are changing,” but we are Classical for a reason. Maybe “trust with guidelines.” Will there be a check-in with the board about the changes? **Mr. Champaign:** We do not have good alignment, but I would like to have more board members on the call and see some more refinement? **Ms. Behm:** Perhaps some more monitoring of teacher usage rather than too much specification in advance? **Ms. Meisel:** Is this actually K-8, or is it K-3? Are there grade-level differences? Is there a teacher-equity concern? **Ms. Van Ryzin:** For younger kids, they need to spend time getting students used to computers for the standardized testing. The reading program also has quizzes on the computer. **Mr. Winch:** This is all helpful and a good direction. Maybe go grade by grade? **Ms. Meisel:** Yes. **Mr. Champaign:** We will return to this topic in a near-future meeting.

7. Finance (**Mr. Champaign** for Mr. Layher): BMO: \$17,985.04; BlueSky: \$4,842.32.

8. Public Comment

- **Parent:** Kids (in K) are starting school with Chromebooks? Will penmanship suffer with Chromebook usage? I think the time spent writing quizzes and other assignments is time well spent.
 - **Ms. Crownhart:** I still use penmanship, but sometimes felt cross-pressure from students who want everything online. Would like some teacher input as well.
9. Motion to adjourn (**Ms. Van Ryzin / Ms. Meisel**): All in Favor @ 7:53 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.