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Spectrum Academy Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time August 9th, 2016 7:05 P.M. – 7:50 P.M
Location Spectrum Academy School Pleasant Grove, Utah
Members in attendance: Marney DeVroom, Dennis M. Bullard, Jana Gold, Marcy Johnson

Members Excused

Spectrum Staff Brad Nelson, Jaime Christensen, Rachel Colledge, Christina Guevara, Kaley Veater, Liz Banner, Christine Manning, Barry Pewtress, Kristen Wilson

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

Board Session

- Motion to approve the minutes from June 7th, 2016 board meeting, made by Dennis Bullard, Seconded by Jana Gold, and unanimously approved.
- Board Members confirmed they have gotten their background checks completed.
 - Marney asked how to do it and will get more information from Jaime. Everyone else has them complete.
- Financial Update (Brad Nelson)
 - \$263, 000 went into reserves last year.
 - Medicaid reimbursements are being received.
- Update on the purchase of property in NSL for vocational training center. (Dennis Bullard and Brad Nelson)
 - Closed on, and Own the CREATE building.
 - Bids are being obtained for sprinkler and fire system.
 - Waiting for architect's plan, before compiling a complete budget.
 - The Seller was pleasant to work with.
 - New CREATE Logo was presented to the Board.
 - Rachelle Collage
 - See attached:
- Update on Pleasant Grove expansion.(Brad Nelson)
 - See attached:

- Academic Director's Update (Jaime Christensen)
 - On Schedule, getting ready to start School on August 22nd.
 - Both school campuses are on track.
 - Meeting with Vivant at the first of September about financing improvements for the school.
- PG School Principal's Update (Liz Banner)
 - Expansion is going
 - 538 students are expected on the first day of school?
 - Autos for Autism Car Show on August 29th.
- NSL Secondary School Principal's Update (Christina Guevara)
 - See attached:

Next board Meeting September 13th 2016 NSL 7:00pm

- Motion to close the meeting made by Marcy Johnson, Seconded by Jana Gold, and unanimously approved.

Public Session

- No public comments


Marcy Johnson, Secretary

CREATE Campus Updates:
Rachel Colledge, Director
August, 2016

Thank you to Dennis, Brad and the Board for the building! We are thrilled to start formulating plans for its usage.

Facilities and Programming:

Storefront Location:

Our current operating location is at the storefront location. We have been working to ensure we are staffed and have curriculum and materials for teaching cooking (Class Name: Daily Living Skills), Vocational Rehabilitation Transition (Class Name: Vocation Training), and School-based Business classes during the first and second terms.

CREATE Campus:

We have determined some needs for adjustments to the space to make some larger classrooms. Office spaces have been determined.

In addition to the Living Skills space that includes the cooking area and mock apartment, and the school-based business production area, other career areas are being analyzed to determine which areas have the highest potential for high demand/high wage positions.

While the meeting of both high demand and high wage is not always possible, it is a measure by which we desire to analyze potential programming to offer the most fulfilling career choices to our students.

Initial research indicates that a focus on web development/software development/applications is a high-wage area poised for growth in Utah that is an area in which many Spectrum Academy students have shown interest and ability.

According to the Department of Workforce Services, overall, computer occupations annual percent change is up 3.2%, with software developers, applications up 4.1%. The average wage of web developers/software developers/applications is \$68,366 with software developers' wages in excess of \$85,000. These wages are not starting wages, but demonstrate the earning potential in the area. Given this data, this area meets both the high demand/high wage criteria.

Next steps:

- Meet with secondary school computer staff to determine the pathways and potential for continued education at the CREATE campus with particular industry-focused curriculum.
- Reach out to the Jordan Academy for Technology and Careers that currently offers computer programming, digital media, and web design programs to high school students to determine the outcomes, certifications, and pipelines for further educational opportunities.
- Apply for support from the Autism Council of Utah. They recently released a request for proposal for grants up to \$20,000 to "promote the development of new programs or services, or to enhance or expand current programs in order to increase services and supports for adolescents or adults with ASD."

Personnel:

To have the most efficient and effective program, processes and protocols for use by CREATE staff have been written. These are under review and final edits are being made.

Jaimee Dawson is teaching the aforementioned classes. As students demonstrate mastery of skills, she is coordinating their placements. Joan Goulding is serving as lead job coach. We have hired two new job coaches:

Holly Winegar: Holly has strong experience in business. She previously owned her own business where she oversaw operations and personnel. She has a high-school aged child with autism.

A-Jay Tau'a: A-Jay has worked as a youth leader in a summer youth program as well as in a school environment.

PG Campus Updates:
Liz Banner, Principal
August, 2016

I only have a couple of updates since the last email I sent out for the board meeting last month.

We are fully staffed and ready to go!

We had our first annual High School Student Body Officer BBQ! We invited all of our officers and their families to a park and had a great time. Even when it hailed while we were trying to BBQ the hamburgers and hot dogs. Good thing a parent had a huge umbrella in their car.

Here are some pictures:





NSL Secondary Campus Updates:

August, 2016

- NeuroVersity held their workshops in July and Christina was able to visit. We had four students attend. It was amazing to see our kids interacting with others and proudly sharing their work.
- We are finalizing our staffing for this - as of today we only need two more paras. Filling the Art Teacher position proved to be the most difficult, but we have found a great person for the job. Additionally, we have been meeting with our new teachers and counselors to get them situated before the start of the school year.
- Christina attended the Utah Multi-Tiered System of Supports and got some great resources to help us to address our goals for this year's school improvement goals via Assessment to Achievement. We will also continue to work with the Utah State Board of Education on the State Systemic Improvement Plan to increase performance scores for students in math.
- Christina is now a member of the Utah Special Education Advisory Panel and will work collaboratively with Glenna Gallo, State Special Education Director, and other key stakeholders throughout the next few years. The focus of the panel this coming year is early systems of support (0-5), transition, youth in custody, and blending general and special education practices.
- Kaley and Christina have been working together with their staff to welcome the 5th grade and identify solutions for the Secondary School to make a smooth transition. They are proud to share that everyone has a home and our incredible staff shares the goal that every student feels welcome on the first day of school.
- The first day of training with staff went well as teachers had ample time to make room swaps and begin classroom setup.