

December Regular Board Meeting - 2024 Minutes

Shanel Valley Academy
12/12/2024 5:30 PMPST
@ Add Zoom Link

Attendance

Present:

Members: Leslie Barkley, Amy Frost, Bessie Glossenger, Melissa Kendall (remote), Kristi McCullough, Noshie Merlin, Melea Meyer

I. Land Acknowledgment and Moment of Silence

We of this Academy, named after the Principal Local Indigenous Village of Shanél, acknowledge with honor the Shóqowa and Hopland People on whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands we work, educate and learn and whose historical and spiritual relationship with these lands continues to this day and beyond.

II. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:39 PM

III. Roll Call

Roll call by Board president Amy Frost

Attendance

Present:

Members: Leslie Barkley, Amy Frost, Bessie Glossenger, Melissa Kendall (remote), Kristi McCullough, Noshie Merlin, Melea Meyer

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to dopt the agenda as written

Motion:

Motion to adopt the agenda as written

Motion moved by Melea Meyer and motion seconded by Noshie Merlin. Passed by roll call vote: 5 ayes 0 abstain 0 nay

V. Public Comment Regarding Closed Session Items

No public comment on closed session items

VI. Closed Session

A. Public Employee Employment: Principal Evaluation

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Section 54956.9: 1 Case
no action taken

C. Public Employee Employment: Certificated Position
no action taken

D. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
Motion to reduce certificated teaching staff by eliminating the current second grade position and combing classes to distribute students more equitably and in line with budgetary constraints.

Motion:

Motion to reduce 1 certificated position.

Motion moved by Leslie Barkley and motion seconded by Melea Meyer. Passed by roll call vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

VII. Introductory Items

Reconvened in open session with guests from public, SVA business manager, and EdTec finance team.

A. Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened in open session at 8:55

B. Report Out from Closed Session

Item A: no action taken, Item B: No action taken, Item C: No action taken, Motion to reduce 1 certificated position.

VIII. Public Comment & Announcements on Non Agenda Items

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda. Although the Board of Directors may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Individual public comments are limited to 3 minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupt the Board meeting.

IX. School Updates & Community Announcements

Kristi shared updates on various programs currently in progress.

A. Preschool Director Report

Kristi introduced a possible expansion for next year, and the board asked for more clarity on enrollment projections and staffing options. We are open to all options that serve our Hopland families.

B. PAC / ELAC Report

updates tabled to next month.

C. Principal's Report

November Recap: Community and Cultural Events

Hopland Pomo Hand Games

- Students learned about the importance of Hopland Pomo Hand Games, a significant part of our local tribal culture.
- Tribal members shared the history, traditions, and significance of the games, followed by a school-wide tournament in the MPR.
- This event promoted teamwork, learning, and cultural appreciation.

Stone Soup Event

- A heartwarming community-building activity where students, families, and staff collaborated to prepare and share soups.
- The PAC contributed by decorating, creating a gratitude tree, and organizing gratitude leaves with teachers. Ingredient lists were also created for each table.

Community Coffee Chat

- Families provided input on school priorities using an interactive jar system (e.g., academic supports, PBL, maker space, onsite medical/dental supports).
- Discussed LCAP goals and gathered insights to shape future school initiatives.

Winter Sing (Upcoming)

- Scheduled for next week, with Leslie leading weekly student singing sessions.
- PAC has been instrumental in designing and supporting the event to ensure its success.

Family Math Night and Pasta Dinner

- Teachers showcased the math curriculum, instructional strategies, and growth mindsets in math.
- Families engaged in hands-on activities, while leadership students served dinner, fostering connections and community spirit.

Parent Seminar for Positive Parenting

- Ms. Tabitha and Ms. Molly introduced upcoming parenting classes for January with a guest speaker to showcase positive parenting

Academic Updates

Chromebook-Free Experiment

- Teachers removed Chromebooks for five weeks, observing noticeable improvements in student behavior and focus. Next steps: iReady training in January, implement new schedule for personalized learning schedule

Student Achievements

- Grades 4–6 demonstrated significant reading improvement in library leveled books, moving up one and two levels, and were recognized at a recent assembly.

PBL Focus for Trimester 2

- The school-wide theme is "Perspective," encouraging students to explore diverse viewpoints through project-based learning.

Targeted Support

- Ongoing interventions tailored to individual student needs in small groups, 4x per week, 30 min sessions, as well as individual sessions
- Mr. Green is using the "Phonics for Reading" program through iReady, supplemented by additional materials.

Behavioral and PBIS Updates

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

- Exploring new Bear Cart schedules: weekly for TK, bi-weekly for K–3, and classroom-led stores for grades 4–6.
- Leadership students assist with running Bear Cart activities for younger grades.
- Reviewing and revamping the Bear Bucks system to align with its intended purpose, to promote positive behaviors.

Attendance Initiatives

- Collaborating on strategies to improve attendance in the new year, including:
 - Positive reinforcement for consistent attendance such as classroom incentives, personalized incentives
 - Targeted interventions for chronic absenteeism such as student attendance plans, phone calls, in person meetings
 - Ms. Julie connecting with our top 5 chronically absent students before Winter Break with an attendance plan for the new year
- Student Leadership and Extended Learning Program (ELP)
 - Leadership Meetings
 - Youth leadership has been focused on event planning and soon to conduct surveys to gather info on what students want in ELP. Need more student voice
 - New opportunity in January for students to join the yearbook committee and work with Ms. Julie once a week on classroom pages.
 - ELP Activities
 - Students crafted wool angels with a grandparent, promoting intergenerational engagement.
 - Planning for clubs and monthly thematic activities in the new year, based on student and staff input.
 - SS interested in continuing Spanish, basketball, and volleyball clubs and implementing in the new year
 - Club ideas: cards, stem, spanish, pomo, sports, book, art.
 - Support Services
 - Social Work Intern: Ms. Molly
 - Ms. Molly brings sensory projects for younger students and introduces art activities during recess to support social-emotional learning and creativity.
 - She leads parenting night with Tabitha
 - She is becoming a wellness coach and hopes to work at SVA in the future
 - She is on the CEI team
 - Support Staff Feedback
 - Weekly meetings reveal a desire for increased classroom collaboration with the teachers
 - Staff Culture
 - Secret Santa and Hot Chocolate Gathering
 - Staff are participating in a Secret Santa for December, with an unveiling on December 18th.
 - Parents will supervise classrooms for 1.5 hours to allow staff time for a hot chocolate gathering.
 - Upcoming Priorities and Goals
 1. Behavioral Challenges
 - Recently I hosted community conversations to gather family feedback on concerns for student safety and share our proactive approaches to behavior management.
 - Held a three-day open forum to field concerns and foster transparency.
 2. Data-Driven Improvements
 - Exploring root cause analysis of student learning outcomes. Ms. Mac meeting with Continuous Improvement Director to go over next steps
 - Between January and June preparing to finalize: School Accountability Report Card, LCAP updates, Safety Plan, ELOP Plan, and Federal Program Monitoring Audit, etc

D. Community Updates & Announcements

4-H is going strong! They are Hosting wreaths across America event at the Hopland cemetery on Saturday 12/14. They are looking for a new community leader. Please contact Alisha if interested. The next meeting is on 12/17 at 6pm in the purpose room.

X. Financial Updates

EdTec (Brian) finance team joined us for our monthly budget update: 1st interim 2024-25 budget. He shared the approved budget vs. forecast and budget considerations.

Budget shortfall was projected to be about \$60,000, and the team was able to find about \$70,000 in spending reductions. Our forecasted costs for food was higher than what our actuals are trending, capitalization of resources and assets also shifted the balance a bit, some contracted staffing and consulting dropped down a bit. The revenue and many cost savings are related to reduction in enrollment.

 [SVA - October Board Meeting 2024.12.12.pdf](#)

 [SVA - FY25 October \(1st Interim\) Financials 12122024\(26\).xlsx](#)

XI. Review and Possible Approval - First Interim Report

First interim report shows we will meet our financial goals in our current budget year and a projection for 2 years ahead based on current conditions (subject to change)

 [Shanel Valley Academy 2024-25 1st Interim Report 12122024\[1\].xlsx](#)

Motion:

Motion to approve the first interim report to be submitted to UUSD our authorizer.

Motion moved by Bessie Glossenger and motion seconded by Melea Meyer. Passed by roll call vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

XII. Review and Possible Approval - 2023 - 2024 Audit Report

Tabled approval until January.

 [Audit extension 2024.docx.pdf](#)

XIII. Discussion and Possible Action - Makerspace Presentation from Brittany Davis

Tabling this discussion for January.

XIV. Discussion - Benchmark Assessments for Student Performance Data Analysis

Teachers tried a chrome-book-free period to focus on foundational skills, reading aloud and direct instruction. Our reading levels and scores improved with less time on the computer. There were improvements overall since the first diagnostic.

XV. Review and Possible Approval - Line of Credit Extension with Savings Bank of Mendocino County

Our LOC helps us maintain cashflow. The rate and payoff expectations have not changed from prior years, this is a renewal of the LOC. Once cashflow is more stable, we can pay down the LOC.

Motion:

Motion to approve the extension of the Line of Credit for an additional year

Motion moved by Bessie Glossenger and motion seconded by Leslie Barkley. Passed by roll call vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

XVI. Consent Agenda

Consent agenda includes board minutes from November's meeting.

Motion:

Motion to approve the consent agenda

Motion moved by Noshie Merlin and motion seconded by Melea Meyer. Passed by roll call vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

A. Approval of Minutes

November regular Board meeting minutes.

 [November Regular Board Meeting - 2024 Minutes.pdf](#)

XVII. Adjournment

meeting adjourned at 10:03