

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BLOCHMAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Blochman Union School District was held at the Benjamin Foxen Elementary School Library on November 8, 2022.

Members present: Shannon Clay, Daniella Pearce, Jeania Reasner, and Kelly Salas-Ernst. Absent: Thomas Gibbons.

PUBLIC SESSION: Mrs. Clay called the meeting to order and led the flag salute at 5:39 p.m. and then welcomed guests.

I. Reports

A. Charter School Reports

- i. **Family Partnership Charter School** – Sharie Strasburger reported that things are going well. Current enrollment is 389. Students have participated in many field trips. The school spent grant dollars on UDL training which helps teachers better engage students and helps students with their interpersonal skills. Students will participate in a winter formal with students from Trivium.
- ii. **Trivium Charter Schools** – Trisha Vais reported that enrollment is increasing. She went to New York to participate in the charter school competition. They did not advance in the competition. The \$100,000 they did win will go into the non-profit organization. They have invited Family Partnership students to participate in their winter formal.

B. Teacher Reports – none.

C. Superintendent/Principal's Report – Doug Brown reported that current enrollment is 188. The first trimester ends this week and report cards go home next week. Students have participated in field trips to Avila Barn and La Purisima Mission. They will attend a showing of PCPA's Cinderella in December. The Halloween Carnival was well attended. Jen Arkinson and the 8th grade students did a great job putting the carnival together. The music program is going well. The 8th grade students want to go to Catalina, so they are working hard to raise the money. The Robotics Club finished third in the local competition and first in robot design. They have advanced to the tournament in Los Angeles. A special thanks to the coaches. Thank you to Blaga Nichols for helping us with a long-term substitute position.

II. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION

A. Facilities use – Jeania Reasner/Alexander Reasner; multipurpose room; 11/4 and 11/5/2022

III. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION

- A. **Facilities update** – There has been an electrical issue in one of the portables. The company we are renting the portables from is coming out to fix the problem. We received the equipment sheds for the after-school program. Joe Shank will put those together.
- B. **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)** – The board reviewed the current LCAP. They did not request any changes or additions.
- C. **Golden State Water Company – water tanks and easements** – The board discussed whether to keep the water tanks once they are abandoned by Golden State Water Company.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Minutes of October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting

***** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes as presented:**

MOVED:	Daniella Pearce	SECOND:	Jeania Reasner
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

B. Approval of Monthly Warrants – October, 2022

i. Commercial Warrants	\$ 373,246.36
ii. Payroll	\$ 197,034.68
iii. Revolving Fund	\$ 137.00
TOTAL	\$ 570,418.04

***** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education approve the Warrants as presented:**

MOVED:	Kelly Salas-Ernst	SECOND:	Daniella Pearce
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

A. Approval of Benjamin Foxen Elementary School October 2022 Attendance Report

***** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the Benjamin Foxen Elementary School October 2022 Attendance Report as presented:**

MOVED:	Jeania Reasner	SECOND:	Kelly Salas-Ernst
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

B. Approval of the Blochman Union School District's 2022/2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

***** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the Blochman Union School District's 2022/2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plan as presented:**

MOVED:	Daniella Pearce	SECOND:	Kelly Salas-Ernst
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

C. Approval of the 2021/2022 Blochman Union School District Annual and Five-Year Developer Fee report.

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the 2021/2022 Annual and Five-Year Developer Fee report as presented:**

MOVED:	Kelly Salas-Ernst	SECOND:	Jeania Reasner
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

D. Approval of revised board policy 6158.

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve revised board policy 6158 as presented:**

MOVED:	Daniella Pearce	SECOND:	Kelly Salas-Ernst
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

E. Approval of the 2021-22 Independent Study Certification for ADA Loss Mitigation.

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the 2021-22 Independent Study Certification for ADA Loss Mitigation as presented:**

MOVED:	Jeania Reasner	SECOND:	Kelly Salas-Ernst
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

F. Approval of the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant 2022 Expenditure Plan.

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant 2022 Expenditure Plan as presented:**

MOVED:	Kelly Salas-Ernst	SECOND:	Jeania Reasner
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

G. Approval of donations:

- i. South SM Rotary Foundation; \$500; Robotics Club**
- ii. Arlene Peterson; \$200; General Fund**

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the donations as presented:**

MOVED:	Kelly Salas-Ernst	SECOND:	Daniella Pearce
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

H. Approval to allow Golden State Water Company to remove the two water tanks on the hill once they are abandoned by Golden State Water Company.

*****The board requested that this item be placed on the next agenda.**

I. Approval to keep the two water tanks on the hill once they are abandoned by Golden State Water Company.

*****The board requested that this item be placed on the next agenda.**

J. Approval of inter-district transfers.

*****IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board of Education take action to approve the inter-district transfers as presented:**

MOVED:	Daniella Pearce	SECOND:	Kelly Salas-Ernst
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Ellowyn Isaacson, a parent from Trivium Charter School, addressed the board. A copy of her comments are attached.

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA ITEMS**

A. **Items Proposed for Future Action or Discussion** – none.

B. **Blochman Union School District Board Member Items** – The board wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked Karen Goodchild for the pumpkin treats.

C. **Items not on the Agenda** – none.

D. **Next regularly scheduled board meeting: December 13, 2022, open session at 5:30 p.m., Library.** This meeting will also be the annual organizational meeting.

VIII. **CLOSED SESSION** – The board adjourned to closed session at 6:34 p.m. where they will consider and may act upon the following items:

A. **Certificated and Classified Personnel Actions**

- i. **The Board will be asked to review and approve hiring, transfers, promotions, evaluations, terminations, and resignations.**

IX. **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

A. The board reconvened in open session at 7:04 p.m. Mrs. Salas-Ernst reported that no action was taken.

X. **Adjourn**

TIME: 7:04 p.m.

MOVED:	Jeania Reasner	SECOND:	Daniella Pearce
VOTE:			
Shannon Clay:	Aye	Jeania Reasner:	Aye
Daniella Pearce:	Aye	Kelly Salas-Ernst:	Aye
Thomas Gibbons:	Absent		

- I. Introduction
 - a. Resident of Sisquoc
 - b. Mother of 7
 - c. Started with Trivium 10 years ago
 - i. Kirsten started in 5th and graduated from Trivium HS in 2020
 - ii. Annika is a Senior who started with Trivium in 3rd grade
 - iii. Seth is a Junior who started with Trivium in 1st grade
 - iv. Rachael started with Trivium as a Kindergartener, spent a few years at Blochman and is now an 8th grader
 - v. Peter and Eric are in 7th and 5th grade
 - d. Our children's education is our top priority and we are always trying to find the best options available
- II. A Classical Education vs a Modern Classroom
 - a. Trivium Charter follows a "Classical Education" model.
 - i. An online search about what a Classical Education is includes one that
 - 1. Embraces the concept of educating the whole child
 - 2. More than standardized testing
 - 3. Content rich curriculum in a traditional classroom environment
 - ii. We chose Trivium 10 years ago because of
 - 1. Hands on learning
 - 2. Rich learning experiences
 - 3. Small class size
 - 4. Meaningful discussion and debates
 - 5. Enriching extracurricular clubs and classes
 - 6. Focus on art/drama/music, history & science
 - 7. Every ACE day was focused on projects, group activities, hands-on learning and very very few worksheets
 - 8. The ACE days complemented the efforts at home which were more independent work, often screen and worksheet based learning
 - b. Modern Classroom
 - i. Very different from Classical Education
 - 1. No in front of the class lecture
 - 2. Shorter forms of direct instruction, most teaching lectures are recorded and only a few minutes long
 - 3. Students complete assignments individually, using the computer based assignments.
 - 4. Very little interaction between students.
 - 5. The teacher is mostly a moderator and to ensure the kids are on task
 - 6. Students are expected to learn on their own, not be instructed
 - ii. This Modern Classroom approach was implemented this school year with no input from students, parents or teachers
 - 1. It completely contradicts the Classical Education model.
- III. What's happening with the students
 - a. At the High School level...

- i. Every assignment is now online.
 - 1. The worksheets are poorly designed and often don't even work with the technology platform.
 - 2. They are tedious and require zero critical thinking skills.
 - 3. No essays, no opinion writing.
 - 4. No discussion or debates.
 - 5. Most can be completed by regurgitating content from a basic web search.
 - 6. Huge, massive quantity of busy work taking 15 to 20 hours a week to complete each week for 2 classes even for A students who are taking college classes.
 - 7. On ACE Days, the students are staring at their screen almost the entire classtime.
 - ii. At the Jr. High School level
 - 1. Their Physics class is taught by a virtual teacher located in Texas and who they can watch teach from a small screen.
 - 2. The assignments and projects are way lower level than 7th or 8th grade.
 - 3. The tests are extremely difficult and barely any students passed the test. Even Rachael who has received 100% on every single assignment scraped by with a B. Rachael tested at the 11th grade math level in i-Ready and was able to figure out the math problems on her own even though they had never studied them. Most of her friends didn't even get a passing grade.
 - 4. The rest of classtime is spent much like the High School classes are.
- IV. It's not the teacher's fault
 - a. I immediately jumped to the conclusion that it was the teachers' fault for not preparing appropriate lesson plans. But I spoke with teachers and students across all of the campus' (benefit of being with Trivium for a decade) and it was not a teacher problem at all.
 - b. What's going on then
 - i. Each subject from K-12 has been assigned to an oversight teacher. For History, this is a 4/5th grade teacher. For Science, this is a Kindergarten teacher. For English, this is a JH/HS teacher.
 - ii. The curriculum and lesson plans are created by the oversight teacher. Any changes that a teacher makes has to go back to the oversight teacher and then to the supervisor at the admin level. Then back down to the oversight teacher and finally to the teacher.
 - iii. This process means that a Kindergarten teacher is essentially designing the curriculum that my 8th grader is using. Without a single subject degree. Without any idea of what kind of kids are in the 8th grade class. Knowing that the teacher isn't even living in our state.
 - iv. The curriculum can also be too difficult for the students. A teacher told me that their younger class was given an assignment straight from a junior high text book. It went way over their head and they lost an entire class of learning.

- v. The teachers who want to teach to their own lesson plans are stopped because it's not in accordance to the modern classroom system or the correct admins haven't approved their lesson plans. They have their hands tied.
 - vi. Plus new programs have been added in at the last minute. The teachers are now asked to make sure that what little teaching opportunities they have are using the new program...which gave Trivium grant money.
 - vii. Honors programs have been introduced and they dropped a few weeks later.
- c. I'm speaking for many many teachers, students and parents.
 - i. Every parent and student in the JH class I heard from is incredibly upset and disappointed with science this year. An in-person class with a virtual teacher?
 - ii. There is a huge focus is on standardized testing, meeting common-core standards, and yet the actual curriculum and ACE day learning is not allowing the students to even pass the tests. Plus, Trivium was never about focusing on testing.
- d. Why aren't they here?
 - i. The teachers are afraid to speak up as their contract states they can be fired without cause.
 - ii. There is a very high teacher turn over rate at Trivium
 - iii. I was able to use a network of teachers to prepare this comment and they feel that what I'm saying is representing them
 - iv. They are so upset at being manipulated and micromanaged by the Administration that they are in the process of forming a union
- V. How did this change happen without the support of the teachers?
 - a. Trisha Vais is the head of Trivium.
 - i. She has appointed 3 board members to the Trivium Board.
 - ii. Each of them are paid administrative staff at Trivium making 6 figures
 - iii. Some have teaching credentials, but no other administrative credentials
 - iv. There are no teachers, parents or teachers on the board
 - b. Trisha has the ability to make drastic changes that affect every person who works at or attends Trivium without any checks and balances
 - c. Trivium has become unrecognizable from the original Classical Education experience that we signed up for.
 - d. My children are not receiving an adequate education nor are any of the other students
- VI. What I ask of the Board
 - a. Immediately review the assignments and curriculum...it will become very evident that they are not up to par and don't even meet the California Common Core Standards
 - b. Give the power to plan lessons for the students back to the qualified, grade-level teachers of the students. Make this effective starting next semester.
 - c. Amend the charter. The Trivium Board should consist of elected stakeholders. Including a teacher, parent, student and administration representative.