

Mesa Valley Vision, Inc.
Board of Stewards
Meeting Minutes
9-8-09

Attending Board Members:

Brenda Nordstrom
Kim Howard
Ron Roybal

Attending Employees:

Susan Scofield
Gail Giandonato
Tammy Erickson-Piper
Diane Rino
Laurajean Downs
Candace Jahnke
Carolyn Lenderman

Handouts:

Amended Guidebook Section - Finance
Most current Crossover Policy
District contract Excerpts: Section 4.10
& Exhibit B
Assessment Coordinator Update
Achievement Coordinator Point for Discussion
High School Guidance Counselor Update

Visitors:

Jennifer Prieto
The Means Family

Ashton Means Proposal:

Ashton, a high schooler who enrolled with us for the 2009-10 school year, made a proposal to the board. While we don't currently have a crossover arrangement with School Without Walls, another district alternative school, Ashton would like us to consider adding it as an option. She would like to take two classes herself through SWW this year, but would also like the board to amend their policy to add SWW as a crossover option to all students going forward.

Staff Updates:

Laurajean Downs, achievement coordinator, brought several items before the board on which she needs clarification. In general, her biggest challenge is implementing the board's graduation policy (which has the same credit-content requirements of the district graduation policy) in a way that gives MVV-HCP students freedom and flexibility in pursuing their educational goals. It is challenging for her to know how much flexibility the board wants to allow in the awarding of credit, as well as how much decision making authority she has. One example Laurajean gave was:

- **Social Studies:** The district graduation requirements dictate that students need one credit on World Geography, 1 credit in US History, ½ credit in American Government and a ½ credit Social Studies elective. Laurajean has one student who wants to do the World Geography and US History, but has Law Education as a third credit (rather than American Government). Another would like to take Psychology as the third social studies credit.

The attending board members and staff members who were founders of MVV-HCP reiterated the initial intent of the graduation policy – that our credit requirements for graduation are the same as the District's, yet we afford great flexibility in the content of those credits as well as how those credits may be earned. In the Social Studies scenarios, they supported her in allowing a great deal of flexibility in the content of the Social Studies credit requirements. They also encouraged her to gain the input of both Ron Roybal and Bill Larsen on these issues and to also bring them before the board on a continual basis this year.

Carolyn Lenderman, our special education liaison, gave an update on what she has been working on so far. Carolyn has been attending staffing meetings, along with families and District personnel, for learners that have come to us from traditional public school with an active IEP. She also meets with families who suspect their child may have a learning disability, uses some evaluative tools and makes specific curriculum and research-based suggestions to them. Carolyn is expanding her understanding of the RTI process and continues to work with Alison to develop a Vision-specific group of resource consultants and staff that will meet to support at-risk learners. Carolyn has also been working with District special ed personnel along with Alison in order to develop some special ed procedures as well as fine-tune MVV-HCP policy in that area. Carolyn appreciates the flexibility she has as an independent contractor with MVV and has really enjoyed the work so far.

Tammy Erickson-Piper, assessment coordinator, gave an update on assessments thus far. For reading, Gail W. is currently finishing up DRA2 assessments and has created ILPs for struggling readers as well as Reading Road Maps that parents can use for reading instruction (K-3). DRA2 training is also being conducted by Gail for RCs. Fall NWEA results are in and are in the process of being distributed to parents now so that VILP goals can be amended accordingly. The ACT Explore and Plan assessments (for 8th and 10th grades respectively) will be administered by Alison in the next couple of weeks. Tammy explained that she has been attending CSAP trainings at the District and has received permission to condense the elementary schedule – which will be good news to parents. Tammy is currently working on a CSAP schedule and facility for 2010 and will report more details as things progress. CSAP Coach materials have been received and will be distributed to enrolled families soon. Since Tammy is also our point person for curriculum, she reported that she has set up a database which lists all that we currently have available in our library. She began organizing the curriculum library and hopes to have it grow into a lending library with extensive reference materials and supplies in the future. A curriculum committee has been established which is now meeting the first Thursday of each month. Tammy also handed out the 2008-09 CSAP results to board members.

Diane Rino, family advocate, passed out some handouts with information about School Without Walls. She then expressed some concerns with the possibility of SWW crossover classes. Diane feels MVV-HCP should not feel rushed as we want to establish crossover procedures thoroughly first as we are still establishing credibility with parents the District and community. She also said SWW staff needs time to understand what MVV-HCP is and how our students will impact their program and our RCs need to understand what SWW is. She recommends a start date (if we pursue a crossover option with SWW) of no earlier than January. Diane also asked if this will be the only District alternative school with which MVV-HCP will want to pursue crossover classes. She says Vision already offers individualized learning and questioned the benefit of offering crossover to other District alternative schools.

Alison Bailey, program director, gave a brief report this evening as the agenda was quite full. Alison reported that open enrollment is coming to a close and we are currently at approximately 290 students. She also handed out a breakdown of our current enrollment by grade. The board noted the high numbers of K-2 and 7th graders. Alison also shared that there has been a delay with the new lease at 1st & Kennedy. The landlord has requested an insurance arrangement which the District's attorney has objected to. The delay will cause the lease to go on the 9/15/09 Board of Education for approval, with a commencement date a few days after that.

Policy Items:

Candace Jahnke brought a situation she has to the attention of the board. One of her families is quite late in developing their children's VILPs and she is concerned that they will not be finalized before the deadline of 9/15. Since there is another week before the deadline, the board agreed that the family may complete them in the next week or so and remain compliant at this time.

Susan Scofield brought a matter regarding curriculum funding to the board. She said that it was her understanding that the program was not funding anything from companies with a religious mission statement even if the materials themselves are clearly secular. She believed that was our policy yet realized in a recent discussion with Tom that his understanding is different. Tom has been under the impression we will fund secular items from companies whether they have a religious mission statement or not. The board agreed we need further clarification on this and asked Susan to obtain legal counsel. If it is determined that we will fund secular items from companies with a religious mission statement, the program will incorporate many layers of approval into our procedures, wherein the three lemon questions are applied to the materials themselves. In the meantime, if enrolled families are awaiting reimbursement for items falling into this category, the program will allocate additional funding to those families in that amount, but will not reimburse them for these items until the policy is amended at some point in the future. The additional allotment will cover the amount of items that fall into this category with receipts dated prior to 9/15/09. The board understands this will amount to a couple hundred dollars additional funding for a handful of families. Susan will advise Tom and obtain legal counsel from Mike Gratten on the policy matter.

The board discussed the possibility of adding School Without Walls as a crossover option in the future. After some discussion, they agreed with a quorum of four (Ruth via phone) that the staff should pursue learning more about SWW and how it could be worked out as a crossover option in the near future. Diane and Alison will investigate further and report on this at the October board meeting. The board's intent is to add SWW, as well as other district alternative schools, if it is possible.

Next Meeting:

The next board meeting will be the October regular meeting which will be held on 10/13/09 at 6:00 pm, 804 Grand Avenue.