

Alder Grove Charter School
Governance Council Minutes
June 10, 2025 @10:30 a.m.
714 F Street, Eureka, Ca 95501

Governance Council Members Present: Kate Salazar, Geri Emberson, Matt Wilton, David Turner

Governance Council Members Absent: Sarah Weltsch

- I. Call to Order:** 10:34 a.m.
- II. Review Agenda:** Tim wants to add an item to agenda: Education Protection Account
- III. Public Comment/Correspondence/Communication:**
 - a.** Board members introduced themselves
 - b.** Tim Warner: As an employee of 18 years he thanked the board for continuing the tradition of covering full benefits for 18 years.
 - c.** Stefani Gambrel on behalf of Erica Alston-As a teacher expressing gratitude for covering premiums and supporting health and wellbeing. She feels option 1 would be the best option. Expressed concerns about funds for the new building. Expressing concern over being fiscally responsible for the school.
 - d.** [Nichole Dollarhide](#) on behalf of their department: Expressed interest in having Option 3 being considered.
 - e.** Stefani Gambrel on behalf of JD: Employees already chose deferred pay without opportunity to factor in any out of pocket contribution before choosing the deferred pay option.
 - f.** Crystal Collins: Expressed gratitude over health insurance being covered, recognizes fiscal challenges ahead of us. Expressing having to pay more each paycheck is a lot to consider and it is a challenging decision for the board.
 - g.** Stefani Gambrel: If there are ways to find money in the budget to cover Oak that would be great and if not, then she supports option 2.
 - h.** Nichole Dollarhide on behalf of herself: we have been able to recruit the best because of the benefits we cover. It is part of our lure. The out of pocket difference costs more money no matter what if we don't fully fund Oak if there are people that access insurance.
 - i.** Rachael Riggs expressed that salaries have not seen an increase in 3 years across the board and with rising expenses, this may be more impactful to employees.
 - j.** Adyn: Benefits being covered was a massive factor to why they chose AGCS as their decision. Advocates, if able to fully cover Oak, to do that.
 - k.** Mary Meyer: retired from traditional public school in 2016 and was invited to help at AGCS. She was amazed at her experience at this school. She is expressing support for her colleagues. She loves it at AGCS and is having a lot of fun. It is unique to feel so supported.
 - l.** Alexi Wagner: It would be great to continue at the level of coverage we currently have but if not to fully fund Spruce.
- I. Consent Items:**
 - a.** Possible Approval of the May 2025 Regular Meeting Notes
 - 1.** Motion by Kate Seconded by Geri. All in favor, motion passes
 - b.** Possible Approval of the April 2025 Warrant Report(s)
 - 1.** Motion by Kate Seconded by Geri. All in favor, motion passes

II. Reports:

a. Student Council

1. No Report

b. Enrollment Report:

1. End of the year review with drops we are at 498. We did get quite a few new enrollment meetings in with Stefani Gambrel. Feedback was that it cut enrollment meeting down by $\frac{1}{2}$ the time.

c. Leadership Team Report:

1. No meeting since last GC meeting. Goals are to work on AI policy and cell phone policy.

d. Director of Secondary Programs Report:

1. Data coming in to reflect on improvement and progress
 - a) Up 7% for A-G completers to 26.6%
 - b) Prepared mark on the CCI and as far as kids who have met it we are up 5% at 53%. Dual enrollment is helping a lot.
 - c) CTE had one more completer this year
 - d) We now have a new teacher for Horticulture to help the 8 students from Horticulture 1 to complete the pathway. Scheduling might be an issue to get these students to complete.
 - e) TASI/TESI has 4 new students accepted for these summer institutes.
 - f) Lorenza is getting her CTE credential in theater, Brian is getting his in Studio Art and possibly Music, Brooke is getting hers in natural resource management, and Sarah Wennerholm is going to be in charge of health careers. Jen will help them all clear their CTE credentials next year.
 - g) We need 1 more driver for 1 day a week next year.
 - h) Making PACE mandatory for college students to support success. These coaches can help monitor grades and explore opportunities for them.
 - i) Goal to develop an education pathway.

e. Director of Operations/Principal's Report:

1. Intent to enroll meetings are doing great and currently working on many projects for next year.

f. Director of Special Services Report:

1. Will share data out for the August Meeting.

g. Superintendent's Report:

1. Public Health states Measles outbreak is likely in the future so a plan has been worked out with Nichole, Tim, and Public Health to have a plan if there is a measles outbreak. Services will be moved online in the case of an outbreak. We have 176 unvaccinated students.
2. Facilities Purchase: Rough construction quotes coming in. Half a building is about 7.3-7.5 million. Wanting to scale it back to 3 million if possible. We will see what that looks like and if it is not significantly more usable space than we have now then we will have that conversation.
3. Supreme Court Decision was a tie. There are other cases in the mix so it may come back up but for now, charter schools remain public.
4. AB84
 - a) Passes Floor and now onto Senate.

- b) Convoluted formula for funding can completely defund NCB charters.
- c) Would eliminate all community partners who do not have a teaching credential.
- d) Still a very challenging bill

5. SB414 passed the Senate floor and goes to Assembly next. This is a much better option than AB84.

III. Discussion/Information

IV. Action Items: Motion for J to become A and to add K, Education Protection Account, Kate Motion, Geri Seconded, Motion Passes

- a. Possible Determination and Approval of the 25-26 Health Care Cap**
 1. First option: Employee pays out of pocket difference between current Oak and next year's Oak.
 2. Second option: cover Spruce fully
 3. Third option: Fully fund Oak for next year, but this will most likely change next year and employees should be aware of this.
 4. Conversation ensued regarding accessibility for Governance Council Meeting Agenda and increasing engagement at these meetings. Agenda is posted on the website and the front door 72 hours prior.
 5. Motion to cover option 3, Geri Motion/Katie Seconded/ All in favor, Motion passes.
- b. Possible Re-Seating Returning GC Members**
 1. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Clerk to take notes
 2. Ask to re-seat current Governance Council officers at their current positions. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes
- c. Possible Setting of numbers of GC members: Currently at 5. Geri Motions/ Katie Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes**
- d. Possible Setting of Date, Time, Location of meeting: Board to approve same meeting date and time. Geri Motions/Katie Seconds/All in favor/Motion passes.**
- e. Possible Renewal of the 25-26 Charter Safe Contract**
 1. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes
- f. Possible Approval of the 25-26 Superintendent's Contract**
 1. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes
- g. Possible Approval of the Classified Staff Revised Salary Schedules**
 1. Tabled discussion for another time so we can gather more information. Will sit down in August so we can gather more info so it is all in one place. We can retroactively pay back to 8-1-25 if there is a change after that date.
 - a) Geri Motions/Katie Seconds/All in favor/Motion passes
- h. Possible Approval of the LCAP and Local Indicators**
 1. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes
- i. Possible Approval of the 25-26 Annual Budget**
 1. State revenues are projected to be slightly down from last year. COLA is projected to be 2% which doesn't cover employees' step increases.
 - a) Discussion regarding a clarification communication to the staff regarding how the budget is spent. What the Governance Council does and who they are. It was suggested that this information be in the Branch Newsletter. Teacher Rep. notes can also be linked in the Branch. Highlighting things that come up that affect the

staff is also important. Charter schools call the Governance Council a G.C. instead of a School Board, as to not be confused with the District's School Board.

- 2. Geri Motions/Katie Seconds/All in favor/Motion passes**
- j. Possible Approval of the Consolidated Application and Assurances**
 - 1. Discussion for future budgeting:** The plan at the federal level currently is that the separate titles that schools are funded under becomes one block grant sent to the state. This is also being discussed with special education.
 - 2. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes**
- k. Education Protection Account**
 - 1. Katie Motions/Geri Seconds/All in favor/Motion Passes**

V. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Review School Mission Statement**
- b. Review GC Goals for the 25-26 School Year**
- c. Classified Staff Revised Salary Schedules**

VI. Adjourned to Close Session: 12:43 p.m.

VII. Adjournment:

Approved: 9/9/25