

**Vanguard Classical School (VCS)**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**May 09, 2020**  
**Beginning at 8:00 AM MT**  
**Virtual**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

- A. Board Members:
  - a. Danielle Tomwing
  - b. Robert Fulton
  - c. Harsha Sekar
  - d. Hanosky Hernandez
  
- B. Employees: John Cerny, Keria McCafferty, Angela Keedy, Emily Van Luit, Dennis Steele, Elisha Davis, Nathan Bryant
  
- C. Guest: Rick Boos, Dawn Priday

**Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM by Robert Fulton. The pledge of allegiance and roll call took place.

**Executive Session Rick Boos, Jay, Harsha and the board**

Executive session started at 8:11 AM

Motioned by Robert Fulton

Seconded by Hanosky Hernandez

Executive session Ended at 8:38 AM

Motioned by Hanosky Hernandez

Seconded by Robert Fulton

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

A motion to approve agenda was made by Danielle Tomwing, seconded by Robert Fulton and the motion carried unanimously.

**Action Item**

Approve PO#EAST1920240 for 750 Chromebooks - ~\$180K

Motioned by Robert Fulton

Seconded by Hanosky Hernandez

Motion was carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR' S REPORT**

**Executive Director Report**

John Cerny expressed his appreciation to VCS staff and the board. He stated we have 3 challenges – antagonistic relationship with landlord, covid-19 having a financial impact and covid-19 impacting how we teach.

### **Remote Learning Plan**

*Presented by John Cerny*

John Cerny stated we teach all students with inclusion. We need to look at every student's needs. We need to look at safety. Safety first- cleaning, car lines, 6ft markers, what if there is a fire, going to the nurses office.

There are different phases

- (1) Close the school on 03/01
- (2) How do we teach during this time?
- (3) How do we reopen the school?

John Cerny spoke about engagement. In general there has been lots of negative feedback around engagement from the state– lack of desire from students, parents and staff. He reviewed data from the state, nationwide. VCS engagement is 80-81%. Range from 40% to 100%. SPED engagement – higher on west campus and lower on the east campus. We are trending better. We are hoping for 95% engagement.

#### *Why a remote learning plan?*

John Cerny expressed we need to prepare for remote learning. We need to have a plan and our plans change financially. We need a 1 on 1 technology plan regardless. We need to understand the fear from the community – some families will still want remote learning. DPS has their remote learning plan published – the only district with a published remote learning plan. APS does not have a remote learning plan published. We are happy to present our plan to APS. Jefferson county thinks there is a 75% chance we are starting remote.

Going back to school new “Normal” will be staggered. Jay gave an overview of how other countries resumed school. He spoke about staggered approach. Kids going back to school on staggered days or there can be a morning and afternoon plan.

John Cerny specified we are at 75% chance starting remote. Dawn Priday had to work on finances based on different scenarios – all include 1:1 Chromebook.

- (1) Fully remote
- (2) Staggered
- (3) Hybrid

We need hotspots and internet. We need to find what our platform would be- for example Google Classroom. Our platform is we want our teachers to teach. Our Teachers will be our platform. Teachers can co-mingle.

There might be secondary platforms. We are researching programs that will be supplemental platforms. We need a platform who can tell who is watching lessons. It needs to be monitorable and gradable. We need tripods and white boards which is an additional expense we will have covered. We need to train teachers and parents.

John Cerny reiterated the important of equity – finding hotspots and finding remote spots.

### **Staggered**

John Cerny stated staggered is the new normal. There will be a survey for parents – morning and afternoon or altering days. We will come up with valuable mini lessons. We will need to determine how we can make this day 90% of a regular day. Lots of safety gear will be needed- support regular hand washing and paint to mark 6 ft. This framework incorporates 1 to 1 Chromebooks. John Cerny explained synchronous and asynchronous learning – we must prepare for both. Classrooms will be reconfigured – 15 or less students. We will be looking at mini lessons. We will be teaching specials with social distancing. We will have to consider scheduling- when will school start or when will lunch be picked up. We need to have the flexibility to go back and forth from fully remote learning to and staggered learning plan.

### **Hybrid**

We assume there will be a staggered start. There will be cameras in classrooms. Remote instruction will not be as rich as fully remote learning, but teachers will have cameras for students to watch.

John Cerny expressed we are comfortable we have a framework. Our big commitment – getting families connected and technology at home and getting students engaged.

John Cerny thanked leadership and expressed we will need additional technology staff.

He stated that the most difficult is the staggered learning plan. We need to be prepared for emotional support. Third social worker just started before this. Political uncertainty can also impact us – we will follow district and gov polis but as a charter school we have the choice if we have any concerns. We need the ability to go back and forth between learning plans.

Robert Fulton expressed his appreciation for the fantastic work. He asked John Cerny if he thought about wide screen cameras in classrooms. He expressed the need to have wide screen classrooms and it is simplifying life for teachers and they don't have to mess around with technologies. John Cerny confirmed it is part of both staggered and hybrid learning plans.

Robert Fulton stated we should not expect teachers doing synchronous learning for more than 1 hour. 1-hour check ins are ok. Students can do the work and come back with check-ins.

John Cerny responded that Kindergartens' attention span is short, and we need to account for that and that synchronous learning across grades will look different and we need to consider that. Synchronous learning should not be more than 3 hours a day- lessons will need to be compact and high quality.

Dawn was asked to look at negative 6 at a regular start and negative 6 at a remote start.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Presented by Dawn Priday*

Information continues to evolve. We have different budget scenarios for different learning plans. We have 100% remote drafted. Enrollment and state funding were taken into consideration.

Each scenario has different plans – for example technology and whether we are in the building or not.

Emergency relief funds are bring given to the schools, but we are not accounting for it. We are not putting the mental health grant into the budget. We are still looking at being in the black at -6%. Dawn highlighted variance in the budget depending on the scenario we move forward with. For example,

\$639K addition in funding balance with a fully remote learning plan. There is ~ \$560K swing between the

different scenarios as we swing from in-person to fully remote learning. There are different salary scenarios also to consider based on the learning plan. Mid May we will have more information on what our budget will look like from the government. End of the month we will know what our budget looks like.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **VCS Board Meeting End Time: 9:35 AM**

Motioned by Robert Fulton

Seconded by Hanosky Hernandez

The motion carried unanimously.