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**Minutes**  
**Special Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 9, 2020**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Abdullahi Alibarre, Roshin Gelle, Hannah Lodge, Jennifer Van Haften, and Janet Youngers

**Board Members Absent:** Sonja Berven

**Others in Attendance:** Bert Strassburg

1. Call to Order
  - a. J. Youngers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Chase House
2. Reading of the Vision, Mission, and Values
  - a. Read aloud
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. H. Lodge motioned to approve the agenda
  - b. J. Van Haften seconded
  - c. Motion passed unanimously
4. New Business
  - a. Community Comment regarding consideration of changing the Board governance structure from a “teacher-majority” Board to a Board with “no clear majority”
    - i. J. Youngers explained that the Board approves big picture issues.
    - ii. She also explained the current Board structure and the purpose for the meeting and that any change in governance structure would not affect the current staff or Executive Director.
    - iii. Parent 1: Has been a parent for a long time at CRCS and has been happy and unhappy at times. She expressed that she is happy to see the Board consider moving away from a teacher-majority Board because she feels it is a conflict of interest and parents do not have enough say in what makes a good school for their children. She said parents want to be involved. She also said it is not that she does not trust teachers on the Board, but that she felt more diversity of thought in the decision-making would make the school stronger.
    - iv. Parent 2: Said he usually has time conflicts so attending school meetings and functions is difficult. However, he watches how the staff work together and reads what the Board is doing. He said that their work is ok and parents are not looking to be the majority, but he feels parents could be an equal part of the Board. He said the Board is the main part of the school and the school is average. This reflects how the Board is overseeing the school. He said it is good for parents to participate and see what is going on. He also asked questions about the Board. Specifically, how many members there are, how they are chosen, and how the teacher-majority came to be.
    - v. J. Youngers gave some information and referred further questions to be directed to Sonja Berven, Board Chair.
    - vi. A. Alibarre further explained the role of the Board and it’s current membership.
    - vii. Parent 3: Supports having a parent-majority Board because he feels parents have more at stake than teachers do. He said teachers can find a different job if they want, but parents are working to give their children the best education and opportunities possible, so the stakes are higher and they should have more say in how the school is run.

- viii. Questions and answers given regarding who votes in Board elections.
- ix. Parent 1: Explained the conflict of interest with a teacher-majority Board, saying that the Board is the boss of the Executive Director but the Executive Director is the boss of the teachers. If the teachers are the boss of their own boss, then the Executive Director has a hard time doing his job to make sure the school is the best. This is why she feels neither teacher nor parents should be in the majority, but equal and working together.
- x. Parent 4: Asked if the Board votes on student expulsion.
- xi. Mr. Strassburg replied that he is in charge of discipline but that the Board would vote on student expulsion.
- xii. Parent 4: Supported what most parents were saying that parents and teachers on the Board should be equal in number.
- xiii. Parent 1: Asked if there is a certain number the Board needs to have and if it is possible to have 2 teachers, 2 parents, and 2 community members.
- xiv. Parent 5: A community member that reflects our culture can understand better.
- xv. Parent 1: Stated that she feels we do not want to put just anyone on the Board, but people who are committed to supporting the school and providing the best education possible. She said people on the Board need to be open minded and we have many parents who are capable of doing the work on the Board.
- xvi. Parent 6: Said the ore involved the Board is with the parents the better job they can do and requested notification of Board meetings and Coffee with the Administrator meetings. Asked if the Coffee meetings are with the Board.
- xvii. A. Alibarre responded that there are Parent Partnership meetings where parents can talk to Board members.
- xviii. Parent 1: Wanted to know if the Board could meet with parents to answer questions each month and suggested 6:30 PM is a good time.

#### 5. Adjourn Meeting

- a. H. Lodge motioned to adjourn
- b. J. Van Haften seconded
- c. Motion passed unanimously
- d. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM