

Knowledge Quest Academy (KQA)

Regular Session Minutes

Date and Time:

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:30pm

Location:

Knowledge Quest Academy, 705 Schoolhouse Dr., Milliken, CO 80543

Leadership in attendance:

Tauna Esslinger, Chair	Douglas Chinn, Secretary (phone)	Malyka Korgan, Director
Julie Maslowski, Director	Gabe Thexton, Co-Chair	Linda Spreitzer, Principal
	Sheree Baker, Director	

Leadership absent:

Chester Gemaehlich, Director (excused)

Leadership late arrival:

Guests:

Brenda Chinn, Alison Herrera, Bart Skidmore, Becky Hook, Isaac Korgan, Maggie Bernardy.

- I. Call to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of allegiance/KQA code of honor
- IV. Approval of the agenda
Motion made by: Tauna Motion 2nd by: Gabe, to approve the agenda as amended, with unanimous approval.
- V. Approval of previous minutes:
Motion made by: Tauna Motion 2nd by: Malyka to approve the minutes for 20210923 Work Session, 20210930 Special Session, 20211007 Regular Session, 20211021 Special Session and 20211021 Work Session Minutes as amended, with unanimous approval.
- VI. Public comments: Maggie Bernardy (read email), Becky Hook
- VII. Reports:
 - A. Principal's report
UNC representatives visited Linda to discuss the teacher prep program. Linda was also a guest speaker at AIMS Community College last week.
Soil samples for the addition project were take last week and the students were able to see the drill and learn what it was for.
The RE5J district is adjusting their school calendar to better synch with the construction schedule. They are looking to push out the start of school for the 22/23 school year, which will help KQAs construction schedule too. Linda is on their committee for the school calendar and will report back.
Linda is asking to increase our councilor's hours, 12 more hours per week for a total of 32-35 hours per week.
Motion made by: Gabe, Motion 2nd by: Julie to increase the councilor's hours to no more than 35 hours per week for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, with unanimous approval.
 - B. Financial report – Bart Skidmore
Preparing for quarterly financials (challenge as we're waiting for the District to complete the 2020-2021 audit and will not roll over information until the audit is complete).
Our current reserves are in very good shape. (currently at 9 months of operating reserves). At

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this point, there is nothing more we should need to save. Advised the board to start spending to our budget.

For the refinancing, Bart is suggesting that the board go ahead and solicit competitive bids for refinancing the school mortgage and not sole source to Wells Fargo's adjustment).

Bart's suggestion is to contact Matt O'Meara from Choice Advisors or D.A. Davidson to seek at least two competitive bids to compare with Wells Fargo.

Further action required.

VIII. Items for discussion:

A. Swale clean-up Proposal

Doug sought a bid from our current landscape provider. Tauna read the proposal to the board from Lutey Landscaping.

Board consensus to solicit at least two more bids, unless KQA's financial policy has an exemption for projects with companies we already have contracts with. Linda & Tauna to review current contract with Lutey and KQA financial policies to determine if there is an exclusion clause which would mean we do not need to do competitive bids for this project.

Linda to review current contract with Lutey to determine SOMETHING (Tauna, I could not hear)

B. Covid protocol discussion, specifically regarding potential on-site testing, protocols for quarantine testing and return to school and mitigation measures including masking.

Currently we're working in cooperation with Milliken Elementary and it is going well.

Linda sent their staff gift cards to thank them for their help.

District is on-board with allowing KQA to participate in the same program, so Linda is asking the board to reconsider on-site testing for Students and Staff only.

Motion made by: Doug, Motion 2nd by: Julie to begin on-site covid testing for KQA staff and students via the RE5J District supplied testing and KQA on-site personnel administration, with unanimous approval.

Linda is seeking to modify the existing quarantine protocol where staff and students have the option to test on day 5 days and then return on day 8 with a negative test result, to having the option to test on day 7 and return on day 8. The purpose of this was to rule out instances where symptoms began later than day 5. The board agreed with this more conservative protocol. It was discussed that the board did not need to approve this change since it was operational.

Open discussion regarding the matrix Gabe developed.

Consensus to continue our current layered protocols and follow previous board decisions.

C. Staff leave due to Covid or quarantine.

Linda initiated dialog regarding the school paying for all quarantine related missed staff days instead of from their PTO or sick time.

Linda initiated dialog regarding the how PTO and Sick time is applied to quarantine related missed staff days and asked the Board to consider paying for these days, especially when the staff member isn't ill and is still working from home, whether with projects given by her or teaching remotely. The Board reviewed the PTO and Sick Leave policy last amended in April 2021. The board tacitly agreed that staff still able and working while in quarantine would not have their sick leave deducted and that in school substitutes, where a teacher is teaching remotely and students are in class, would be paid from the sub budget as normal. The Board also wanted more discussion and information about this.

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D. Staff holiday plans:

Idea to bring in Q'doba or Lunch Box for the holiday staff lunch on the first day back instead of El Mexical.

Motion made by: Tauna, Motion 2nd by: Malyka to approve the increase for the staff lunch to \$1000, with unanimous approval.

IX. Adjournment:

Motion made by: Tauna, Motion 2nd by: Julie to adjourn, with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Action Items/Directives	Responsible Person	Expected Completion

Submitted by Board Secretary; Douglas W. Chinn