

Knowledge Quest Academy

Weld County School District RE-5J
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Special Session Minutes
Knowledge Quest Academy
July 27, 2020

- I. Call to order at 6:32 pm. (*Recorded: Folder 2, Recording 30*)
- II. In attendance: Aaron, Doug, Gabe, Mike, Tauna, Jodi (excused absence) and Linda.
Guests: Brenda Chinn, Brittney Von Feldt, Katelyn Laundry. Joined later: Cricket Smothermon.
- III. Pledge of allegiance/KQA code of honor
- IV. Public Comments:
 - a. Public comment heard.
- V. Items for Discussion:
 - a. District Updates
Linda attended a gathering today: Superintendents gathered with concerns about inquiring about the statistics of positive cases in respective districts.
Transportation: KQA will get what they get. Routes are not yet determined and start/end time adjustments are unknown at this time as well.
District to make decision on August 5th regarding the opening and phase in which they'll open. *Mike voicing concerns about the delayed decisions by the District may cause issues with parent's ability to plan for what their children may be faced with.*
Tauna and Aaron have been in contact with the new CFO Michael Everett. He has (Michael) asked for additional explanations on the CARES Act Expenditures. Tauna broached the subject about Federal Monies, Michael referred her to Leslie.
 - b. 2020-2021 Re-Opening Discussion
Aaron relayed there is +/- \$126k remaining from the CARES Act money.
Linda: Purchases – On-line teaching platform. Exploring on-line services, one being “IXL”, This matches our curriculum for skill specific supplementation for math and language arts (post direct instruction). This follows the same scope and sequence.
Costs associated: \$7988 for the entire school (K-8). *Linda expressed the need to commit to this and other programs (Edgenuity, IXL etc.) to a full semester.*
Tauna voiced the need to have scheduled pick-up time/date for instructional material. (be it pick or delivery remains unknown). Further discussion tabled.
Staff development: Self-paced for \$54 per staff member, \$2052 in total for learning.
Topics covered: Preparing for an uncertain year. Creating an effective environment for on-line learning. Building and maintaining relationships with students on-line. How to start and end online instruction. How to ensure Student Success. Getting to the essentials learning and cutting out the fluff. Creating and maintaining student

engagement. How to best utilize video conferencing. How to maximize use of online discussion boards. Maintaining the trust bond between teacher, student and parents in the online environment. Formative assessments in the online world. To grade or not to grade. Managing their own families while teaching online. Tending their own families while teaching online. Managing their stress and anxiety.

We have 3 tents (military style) coming for outdoor learning, \$1590.40 Plus shipping for 80 outdoor chairs for use inside the tents. Mike volunteered to support the search for an alternative. Concerns expressed about logistics and foul weather.

Virtual assistant for the car pick-up line. Researching a few applications, some free, some not. Traffic flow will need to be streamlined as possible. Requires parent volunteers for outside operations. 1. Pick my kid (iOS/Android).

Masks and shields: Prototype for screen in the office. Amplified Masks vs. face shields. \$40/per teacher plus shipping, Linda to forward to board for review.

Flexible seating for grades 1 and 2. Requires the purchase for desk/chairs. Price is +/- \$50/desk/chair.

Discussion for mode in which we start. Linda read from prepared statement requesting board action this evening to decide what the start-up will happen and what it will look like.

Discussion about Hybrid vs. full start.

Tauna brought up the need/desire to begin considerations for creating an Assistant Principal position to help support Linda.

Aaron mentioned/reminded the Board about the thought of investing money into the ColoTrust Mutual Funds. He will correspond with Michael Everett CFO about the way to begin a portfolio.

Motions:

- a. Motion made by: Tauna, Motion 2nd by: Gabe to approve \$2052 for self-paced staff learning. Unanimously approved. Linda to provide vendor name, believes to be Master Teacher.
 - b. Motion made by: Gabe, Motion 2nd by: Aaron To increase Linda's spending cap to \$2500 for operational expenditures until further notice, requiring that Aaron be notified on case by case basis. Unanimously approved.
 - c. Motion made by: Mike, Motion 2nd by: Gabe to purchase up to 80 desks and chairs for grades 1-2 to replace the flexible seating for compliance to new classroom guidelines for up to \$5,000 from CARES Act. Unanimously approved.
 - d. Motion made by: Tauna Motion 2nd by: Aaron to push start date to 8/24 for 1 week soft start (hybrid learning), moving to full start 8/31. Unanimously approved.
 - e. Motion made by: Doug Motion 2nd by: Mike to open a staff position titled Assistant Principal. Unanimously approved.
- VI. Adjourn: Tauna motioned to adjourn. Gabe 2nd with unanimous approval. Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Submitted by Board Director, Douglas W. Chinn