



7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80927

Phone: 719.570.0075 - Fax: 719.522.2900 Email: BoardBLRA@blracademy.org

Mission Statement:

Create a safe, positive environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and a thirst for discovery where students and staff succeed through exceptional programs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2020 AT BANNING LEWIS RANCH ACADEMY at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

1.1. Deann Barnett called to order at 6:04pm

2. Roll Call

2.1. Board Members: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei

3. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

4.1.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the agenda with additional action items 14.2 and 14.3, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd

4.1.2. All approve, motion carries

5. Approval of the Minutes

5.1. Approval of the previous Regular Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2020

5.1.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes from September 15, 2020, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd

5.1.2. All approve, motion carries

5.2. Approval of the previous Special Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2020

5.2.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the special meeting minutes from September 18, 2020, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd

5.2.2. All approve, motion carries

6. Positive Observations

6.1. Alex Tomei hi-lighted the excitement that students have at the ranch to get to their teachers each morning. They are counting down to the gates opening and the energy with which they run to their classes DAILY is wonderful to see and a testament to what is going on inside the building

6.2. Alex Tomei also wanted to hi-light the 3rd grade team. Following in a long line of amazing curriculum choices (i.e. a first grade teacher privately diversifying her book library over the summer, the wonderful CLDE program presented upon by Mr. Mavel, etc), she wanted to acknowledge the choice to include autism and other neurodivergent / neurodiverse / disabilities in the curriculum. BLA goes far beyond learning how to read, write, and do math – they continuously get creative to give our students a well

rounded education that will teach them to be inclusive, have thought provoking conversations, and love others they get to encounter.

- 6.3. Matthew Pacheco acknowledged the football team, their win, and the Booster Club putting together a fabulous event.
- 6.4. Deann Barnett wanted to hi-light the cross country meets and being able to host the championships hi-lighting our school and our community.
- 6.5. Deann Barnett wanted to acknowledge the work that was done and how it was handled to address the first positive COVID-19 case at our campus and how smooth it has gone to go through a cohort shut down.

7. Public Comment - *Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and must sign in at the beginning of the meeting.*

- 7.1. Mr. Langhoff, head high school basketball coach spoke on the return to play for Basketball. Staggering girls and boys practices. Want to be competitive and retain athletes. No matter the number of participants they will be cohorted during practices to ensure safety and easier contact tracing. Temperature checks and monitoring of moving through the building including bathroom use will be implemented. Cleaning plans are in place. Plan has been presented for all sports and wanted to put a plan in place for basketball specifically
- 7.2. Wes Mackenzie head high school basketball coach, expanding on what was previously stated. Limiting sharing of equipment. Presented 4 reasons for off season workouts – injury prevention, student athlete retention, CHSAA and tripeaks is higher level of competition, and a return to normalcy for student athletes and their mental health. Want to provide a safe return for sports and basketball.
- 7.3. Laura Estevez a 5th grade teacher at the Ranch stated that she sent a difficult letter about professionalism. When we are part of a school we make an impact on the students and the families. Pointed out the educators in the room who set unachievable expectations for themselves and go beyond the expectations that are set. Their desire to teach comes from the heart – the genuine nature of their hearts is why students and families choose us. She feels that the standard of the professionalism of the board is not as high and how that communicates to families, teachers, admin, and students. Met with Krisell Creager-Lumpkins and Leanne Weyman today before the meeting and was thankful for that meeting. We should all hold ourselves to a higher standard of professionalism.

8. Program Highlight

- 8.1. None this month

9. Sanctioned Organizations - *Speakers are limited to 3 minutes when presenting in person*

- 9.1. Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) –
 - 9.1.1. Email update sent with their minutes and score report
 - 9.1.2. Expanding ideas on fundraisers since the normal fundraisers are not able to be completed. BLA Barn is an option that has been discussed and is still being worked out.
- 9.2. Boy Scout Troop 228 -
 - 9.2.1. Going through a transition in leadership; still being worked out how updates will be given and all is operating remotely
- 9.3. Cub Scout Pack 228 –
 - 9.3.1. Going through a transition in leadership; still being worked out how updates will be given and all is operating remotely

9.4. Civil Air Patrol –

9.4.1. Going through a transition in leadership; still being worked out how updates will be given and all is operating remotely

9.4.2. Request made to Chuck Shaw about using the facility for a ceremony but unclear how to do that safely (i.e. families and students from other schools mixing cohorts).

9.5. Girl Scout Troop –

9.5.1. Going through a transition in leadership; still being worked out how updates will be given and all is operating remotely

9.6. BLA Booster Club –

9.6.1. Participated in the fall sports and beginning concessions and fundraisers including advertising

10. Standing Committee Reports *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*

10.1. Finance Committee Report Chair: Matthew Pacheco

10.1.1. This board meeting is a week early due to Fall Break; updated financials will be emailed to the board next week after the finances meeting.

11. BLRAF, Fundraising and Marketing Updates *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*

11.1. Representative: Heather Zambrano

11.1.1. Transitioning the registrar

11.1.2. As of 10/13 enrollment is at 1491

11.1.3. Currently have 239 students on AMP as of 10/13

11.1.4. ACCEL, admin, and marketing team already working on next year. 1576 is the targeted enrollment for next year for the Bond Holder.

11.1.5. New website will be live on 11/1; shell is created and working on fixing the last things so it can go live

11.1.6. The Gazette was at the football game thanks to Jim West – fantastic marketing opportunity

12. BLR Admin Reports *Speakers are limited to 10 minutes when presenting*

12.1. Supporting documentation BLR Admin Report

12.1.1. Board report was emailed

12.1.2. Rick Dahlman reported on SACC

12.1.2.1. Securely approved for device management and filtering online content

12.1.2.2. Shatterproof window tinting is installed

12.1.3. Shannon Molnar reported on the Ranch

12.1.3.1. Parent / Teacher conferences this week. Read plans created and ready

12.1.3.2. Some of the cohorting and COVID policies have been a blessing in disguise including creative play, greeting parents on the field at drop off, etc

12.1.3.3. Focus on the 7 steps to a language rich classroom

12.1.3.4. Positive self-talk is being implemented – you will see “you can do this” for example on the top of tests and will translate beyond just that one test

12.1.4. Rick Dahlman reported on BLPA – Middle School

12.1.4.1. Parent teacher conferences are upcoming

12.1.4.2. Interim assessments; math teachers are reporting lots of growth

12.1.4.3. Staff is catching the groove of teaching while zooming despite technical issues that are in the process of being resolved

- 12.1.4.4. Teachers are enjoying connecting with students in person
- 12.1.4.5. Students are happy to see each other and social distancing is needed to be continually reminded
- 12.1.4.6. Question was raised on if teachers are encouraged but not required to provide timeslots for conferences; all teachers are required to offer slots for students.
- 12.1.5. Albert Wiggins reported on BLPA – High School
 - 12.1.5.1. Overall enrollment is increasing per numbers from today
 - 12.1.5.2. New 8th/9th grade counselor and a science teacher
 - 12.1.5.3. PSAT tomorrow for junior students; remote learning for all other students
 - 12.1.5.4. Parent teacher conferences are coming up
 - 12.1.5.5. On the 15th of October the results will be available from the PSAT
 - 12.1.5.6. Teachers are excited to have students back on site and in person; some want all in person but are excited to see the spark with the students when they are teaching
 - 12.1.5.7. Students are excited to get back to some sense of normalcy; senior sunrise was a wonderful celebration. Seniors are excited for graduation, career planning, and cap / gown purchasing
- 12.1.6. Albert Wiggins reported on concurrent enrollment on behalf of Rob Wilkinson
 - 12.1.6.1. 89 students enrolled currently
 - 12.1.6.2. When second semester is decided upon can let Pikes Peak CC know so we can add courses to the offerings
- 12.1.7. Chuck Shaw reported on facilities
 - 12.1.7.1. Staffing changes and shifting and the team is embracing new changed roles well and positively
 - 12.1.7.2. HVAC replacement requested on the next budget discussion; presented options for consideration as we look at the budget in the next months
- 12.1.8. Leanne Weyman reported on ACCEL, plan for RVP position, and D49 Update
 - 12.1.8.1. Classroom observations were done – enlightening, amazing and awesome
 - 12.1.8.2. Working on meeting with the developers with Heather Zambrano
 - 12.1.8.3. How to work on being a more formal K-12; working with D49 board as well
 - 12.1.8.4. Culture of academic excellence was spoken about in every single stakeholder conversation; beginning to talk about what that looks like, how to get there, where are the gaps
 - 12.1.8.5. Clean audit presented to D49; complete annual performance review was completed and submitted
 - 12.1.8.6. Continuing to work on enrollment; lots of support from admin on tours and scheduling and getting them fully enrolled
 - 12.1.8.7. When looking at future years – will continue to enroll this year throughout the school year and encourage new families to join and keep families

13. Discussion Items

- 13.1. HS / MS Open Gym Allowance
 - 13.1.1. Plan was sent both for sports in general and basketball in specifics
 - 13.1.2. Cautionary thoughts on what happens when exposure happens and closure is needed.
 - 13.1.3. Discussed a two prong approach for fading in and fading out when exposure occurs
 - 13.1.3.1. Working with D49 on how phases are implemented and stay on top of contact tracing

- 13.1.3.2. Complexities of contact tracing both for in seat students and extracurriculars; potentially more cohorts shut down / entire teams shut down.
- 13.1.3.3. Health and safety of staff and students is highest priority
- 13.1.4. Cohorting options were discussed and how that can be used to prevent larger shut downs
 - 13.1.4.1. Gym screens can be used to increase cohorts
- 13.1.5. Question on masks needing to be worn at all times in most communication but is unclear on when that mask can be taken off (BLPA specific protocol document referenced) – clarification requested
 - 13.1.5.1. Will follow D49 and CO mask mandate – indoor sports mask all the time, outdoor sports like when football players have helmets on can remove the mask while in play
- 13.1.6. Currently because sports are off season, all sports middle and high school levels can be accommodated at the prep (so the ranch gym would not be needed until in season, currently set for Jan 4)
- 13.1.7. If BLPA goes back to a 9-session full day, what is the plan for locker rooms and changing within the locker rooms
 - 13.1.7.1. Protocols are written just in case; will hope for locker rooms to be made available and distance out within the locker room if become available. In the event of non-locker room use would have students go home and then come back for practice.
- 13.2. AMP Options – Second Semester
 - 13.2.1. Not able to provide this plan as a read-ahead but will in the future so that all information can be provided ahead of time for more reflection
 - 13.2.2. New protocols from D49 and El Paso County Health
 - 13.2.2.1. More granular level of contact tracing – no longer have to quarantine an entire class with a positive case. Can look at the seating chart and quarantine based on actual physical distance. This creates a foundation for the following presented options
 - 13.2.2.2. For 6-12 – goal would be to move all students back in person or to schoology moving back to a period 1-9 schedule
 - 13.2.2.2.1. New quarantining guidelines make it easier to have all 9 periods per day as well as looking for the mental health of students by having all classes during the day
 - 13.2.2.2.2. New lunch schedules are being created including social distancing and other spare areas for lunch periods
 - 13.2.2.2.3. Processes provided (AVID like) for using the first and last 5 minutes to clean classroom if possible
 - 13.2.2.2.4. 1-9 schedule is felt to be an appropriate step towards normalcy for staff and students and felt that can be maintaining safety as well
 - 13.2.2.2.5. Schoology would remain the back up option for when classes / grades / entire schools do shut down
 - 13.2.2.3. For K-5 – goal would be
 - 13.2.2.3.1. 2 options are being presented
 - 13.2.2.3.2. K-2 would remain on AMP; it is a difficult grade level to teach online and AMP can fulfill those needs (43 students) or they can opt to come in person
 - 13.2.2.3.3. One option is to move 3-5 off AMP onto in person or schoology (54 students).
 - 13.2.2.3.3.1. Option to do a half day each week for teacher prep to allow for the schoology option to work more successfully and have teachers be supported in creating robust curriculum

13.2.2.3.4. Second option is to do a push for students to return in person but allow AMP families to maintain AMP status if chosen, schoology if chosen, etc.

13.2.2.3.4.1. Budget concerns on allowing all K-5 staying on AMP

13.2.3. Concern presented on going back to 1-9 for BLPA – potential for increase by double the amount of bodies moving through the building. Question was asked if there was an in-between option like the 4/5 schedule but in full day blocks – we still increase the number of people but passing periods and lunches and cleaning risks would be reduced

13.2.3.1. Struggle with logistics to create lunches within that 4/5 blocked full day schedule

13.2.3.2. 180 minutes of language arts and math in middle school which would not be recommended

13.2.4. Have not hit fall break / winter break / etc. Discussed setting a desired plan as a goal, but having other contingencies in place based on the data presented in El Paso County on cases / recommendations from D49 and El Paso County health for handling safety within the schools. Need to get the community thinking about how the plan will change and begin communicating it to stakeholders and keep transparent communication.

13.2.4.1. What is the timeline for concurrent enrollment finalizing for second semester so that those students can plan for their classes

13.2.4.1.1. Urgent piece of information is the need to know how long in person during the day so that those courses can be picked / selected accurately.

13.2.4.2. Advocating for the full course day so that all the learning hours can be utilized to the fullest extent

13.2.5. At BLPA - Social Emotional Learning Time will still be provided within the day at the end of the lunch time

13.2.6. Travel over breaks discussed – quarantining after travel as an option if they travel to a hot spot area but may need to be thought about over these holidays; monitoring for symptoms as the current recommendation

13.2.7. At the Ranch, families are currently satisfied with the options they have chosen (AMP or schoology)

13.2.7.1. First step would be a survey to parents to determine who is planning on staying home or returning in person

13.2.8. Because of travel and flu season and increased cases, contingencies are needed for all situations for all levels of shut down

13.2.9. Suggested to focus on parent survey on the barriers to returning to school in person rather than dissatisfaction of AMP

13.2.10. If we keep all K-5 on AMP, no new students would transfer to AMP and AMP will not be an option in the 21/22 school year – option presented

13.2.10.1. Concerns over the disparity in the academic levels of those on AMP compared to in person / schoology students at all grade levels

13.3. BLA Second Semester Options

13.3.1. Not able to provide this plan as a read-ahead but will in the future so that all information can be provided ahead of time for more reflection

13.3.2. See notes on options from previous discussion item

14. Action Items

- 14.1. HS / MS Open Gym Allowance
 - 14.1.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the high school and middle school open gym allowance, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 14.1.2. Discussion
 - 14.1.2.1. Discussion needed on when to open – proposed for tomorrow or after fall break on 10/26
 - 14.1.2.2. Last minute opening is a concern
 - 14.1.2.3. PSAT is tomorrow 10/14 – cannot use the facilities anyway. Request to start tomorrow is to get information out and begin to plan for scheduling
 - 14.1.2.4. In person sessions starting on 10/26 as an option and allow for planning starting tomorrow 10/14 – supplies and support is available to start 10/14
 - 14.1.2.5. Parents can still opt not to participate as it is still off-season
 - 14.1.2.6. Cheer, basketball, and football have provided specific plans – all other sports must also provide a sports specific plan before utilizing
 - 14.1.3. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to approve the high school and middle school open gym allowance effective 10/14/2020, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 14.1.4. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei
 - 14.1.5. Vote No: None
 - 14.1.6. Motion carries
- 14.2. AMP Options – Second Semester
 - 14.2.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to remove AMP from the secondary campus, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 14.2.2. No Discussion
 - 14.2.3. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei
 - 14.2.4. Vote No: None
 - 14.2.5. Motion carries
- 14.3. BLA Second Semester Options
 - 14.3.1. Krisell Creager-Lumpkins motioned to return to full school day for the secondary campus for regularly scheduled hours, Matthew Pacheco 2ndd
 - 14.3.2. Discussion
 - 14.3.3. Vote Yes: Deann Barnett, Todd Blum, Krisell Creager-Lumpkins, Matthew Pacheco, Alexandra Tomei
 - 14.3.4. Vote No: None
 - 14.3.5. Motion carries

15. Executive Sessions

- 15.1. None requested

16. Future Business

- 16.1. Amended budgets next meeting
- 16.2. School calendar options beginning next month
- 16.3. K-5 Options for second semester and AMP
- 16.4. Board Training / Board Training Modules

