



135 Joerschke Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945 | 530-477-1235

**Minutes**  
Bitney College Preparatory High School Charter Council  
 Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 19th, 2016, 6:00 PM

Place: 135 Joerschke Drive, Grass Valley

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Roll Call**

Council Position	Member Name	Attending
Parent	DietLinde Williams	
Parent	Lang Norris-Waters	x
Parent	Joan Moskowitz Lewin	x
Faculty	Amy Pugel <i>Secretary</i>	x
Faculty	Beth Grebe	x
Academic Dean	Dave Peterson	x
Student	Jacob Arnold	x**
Student (alternate)	Annekin Ove	x
Community	Eric Robins	x*
Community	Shana Stratton <i>Chair</i>	x
Community		
Director (non-voting)	Russ Jones	x

\* Eric Robbins was not eligible to vote on Agenda Items 3-4.

\*\* Jacob Arnold arrived late and did not vote on Agenda Items 3-5.

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Amy Pugel moved that we approve the agenda as presented. Lang Waters seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. **Public Forum:** no public present.
5. **Community Member Election:** Eric Robins talked about why he wants to be part of the Bitney Charter Council. He participates on the Ultimate team and is a Bitney alumnus from 2009. Amy Pugel moved that we approve Eric Robins as a Community Member. Joan Lewin seconded. Unanimously approved.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** Amend “Robbins” to have only one “b”. Amend Sam to Samantha. Dave Peterson moved to approve that minutes as amended. Lang Waters seconded. Unanimously approved.

7. **Consent Agenda:** Amy Pugel moved to approve the consent agenda. Joan Lewin seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - 7.1. **Director's Report:** director's report was presented and approved.
  - 7.2 **Warrants:** Warrants were presented and approved.
8. **Director's Update and Committee Reports:** Russ received notification that the grant request from the Grass Valley and Nevada City Rotary Clubs were funded and we will receive another ~\$5K for computer and lab upgrades. He is getting a bid for air conditioning and has purchased software. Girls Who Code are asking to use the space this summer for a third class. This is offered free-of-charge, but we could look into a possible rental fee to at least cover air-conditioning costs. Bitney is hosting a workshop this Saturday at no cost to the provider, but we should look into what other places charge for rental. Some of the grant money we received was contingent on hosting Girls Who Code (which is a free program) so charging them a rental fee seems wrong. We had two consultants from BPL two weeks ago and are awaiting their report. Russ's impression is that they think we are already very similar to a BPL school, with respect to philosophy and internships. Charter Council would like to see the report when it becomes available. Javier Guzman and Ann Curtis were representing BPL and have experience transitioning existing schools to the Big Picture model. Apportioning minutes might require a change to our charter to accommodate 3 days on-site and 2 days off-site. Russ spoke with Holly Hermansen regarding an impending lawsuit and she feels that we have done due diligence to take care of our students and our campus. Documentation of our proceedings makes this clear. Russ let Charter Council know that the staff may bring a request to the next meeting regarding some alternate graduation requirements that are not as strict as our current requirements. This is specifically in regard to math or foreign language requirements, giving us flexibility to graduate students that do not meet all of the a-g requirements but still meet California graduation requirements. If we choose to change our name, there will be no data continuity with the state. We could use Bitney Prep as our nickname but still have Bitney College Prep on the stationery. Part of our charter specifies the "college prep" curriculum, but if we deviate from that path, that may be a significant enough change to warrant a change of our charter. It's LCAP time again! Russ and Claudia are working on this presently. Claudia hopes to have the budget ready by May 17<sup>th</sup>, so we may want to consider moving next month's meeting to accommodate this. We are contracting with Data Tracking Systems to enter the data forward from one template to the next. Nevada County Charter Services Authority that employs our Special Education staff put forth Julie Morse as a replacement for Darci Mason who is leaving at the end of this year. Julie is a veteran Special Ed teacher with over 20 years' experience in elementary school but is eager to work with high school students. Russ presented the final draft of the 2016/2017 School Calendar approved by staff. We moved Wilderness Week to a week later in September. November 23<sup>rd</sup> is now a full day off, not a minimum day. Days of instruction and days of teacher work days are similar to previous years. This calendar aligns with NU's calendar. This will need to be discussed before approval at next month's Charter Council meeting. Site Committee has not met this month, but Russ talked about all the site improvements on campus, hoping this will help us in our relationship with our landlords. Tech Committee met extensively via email throughout the computer lab upgrades. Scott Taylor is working with Eli Lewin to re-image and upgrade the Dell laptops. Half of the old Dell desktops were moved into Elkin's room. We hope to install 4 more to be used for the internship program. Marketing Committee: Patti is putting together a "Thank You" news release regarding the computer upgrades. She is also working on other development materials. There were some glitches on the online calendar that need to be looked into.
9. **Bylaws & Policy Committee Update:** Lang Waters reported that the committee met last week and discussed the need to create a math assessment that aligns with the California Standards, must be in

place before next school year. They also worked on admissions policies. They will meet again next month.

10. **Parent Council Report:** Parent Council is still looking for new members. They are considering a single Wine-Tasting Fundraiser, really putting most effort into this because it is most efficient in terms of recruiting parent volunteers. Blue Ginger will not be providing food service next year. Sierra Harvest will be meeting with them to look into getting some healthier and more student-involved options. Shana Stratton asked about an e-Waste fundraiser, but it may not be profitable.
11. **Dean's Report:** Standardized testing was supposed to happen last week but it was quite the debacle. There were errors in logging in, but this also happened at NU recently, so not just Bitney. We had a Parent Info Night last Thursday, and we had two students and their families. Those students shadowed today. If we do end up moving toward BPL, we will need to do a marketing roll-out to educate new and current students and parents. We have approximately 20 students interested at this point in attending Bitney as freshman next year. Past data shows that there is a distinct increase in applications over the summer, so we may have more. If we do move toward BPL, Patti plans to get an article in the paper so we can introduce the new program to the larger community.
12. **Student Government Report:** students are still upset about some site-blocking that blankets many sites, so students resort to using vpn's. Internet speeds are slow because of these. Maybe we could host an open committee including Chris Schneider and students to determine the breadth of what should be blocked or unblocked. Does the security software have a logging program to see what sites are being blocked or requested? Feedback regarding internships and the future of the BPL model seemed mixed, but there are a large number of students who signed a petition in favor of the BPL model.
13. **Future Agenda Items:** Calendar Approval. Director Evaluation. Budget and LCAP Approval. Add Big Picture as a standing item.
14. **Next Meeting:** Amy Pugel moved that we meet on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Annekin Ove seconded. Unanimously approved.
15. **Adjournment:** Annekin Ove moved to adjourn the meeting. Jacob Arnold seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Pugel