



## Spark Charter School Minutes Special Board Meeting

739 Morse Ave Rm 4  
Sunnyvale 94085

Monday, September 11, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

### A. OPENING OF MEETING BY BOARD PRESIDENT

Roll Call	Niti Madan	<u>    x    </u>	Mayuri Vasireddi	<u>    x    </u>
	Shannon Heidemann	<u>    x    </u>	Laura Stuchinsky	<u>    x    </u>

### B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved Shannon Seconded Mayuri Board Action 4-0 approved

### C. Comments from the Public 10 min

Several parents asked questions about items on the agenda and not: questions about the budget for Spark's SEL program, the numbers of seats on the board, seeking clarification on leadership development, whether questions will be taken when items are heard, and whether Spark can hire a math specialist for the younger grades.

### D. Closed Session approx. 15min

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: Executive Director, staff
2. Leadership development - Chris and Board

### E. Reconvene to Open Session

Report out on actions taken in Closed Session, if any.

No action taken on either item.

### F. COMMUNICATIONS 10 min

#### Comments from the public

Teachers inquired about:  
Money devoted to professional development;  
Inclusion of a question about the board in Spark's teacher survey;  
Timeline for sharing the parent survey conducted at the end of the last school year to the community.

### G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve SCCOE Retirement Plan agreement  
No action taken.

### H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on parent classroom volunteer guide and training – Pam/Chris

Pam Sturner shared the process she went through to prepare the parent classroom teacher guide, which included interviews with the executive director and the teachers as well as their final review. It also included the feedback of active parent volunteers about best practices.

2. SEL program and behavioral management

Kindergarten teacher Whitney Infelise described Responsive Classroom, a formal SEL program that Spark's teachers recommended the school adopt. The program includes strategies for social-emotional learning as well as classroom management . A number of the school's teachers are familiar with this program. The board discussed short and longer-term strategies for training all of Spark's teachers in this approach.

Laura made a motion to adopt Responsive Classroom for Spark's SEL program, Niti seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0 with Niti, Shannon, Mayuri and Laura voting affirmatively.

3. Director's update

- Enrollment is stable. Continue to get applications;
- Prop 39: info sessions planned. First info session next Thursday, 7-8:30PM;
- Back to School Night: K-2 classes tomorrow. Older grades next week;
- Lunchtime program in full swing: finalizing schedule with parent volunteers. Recruiting more volunteers;
- Ignite after school program started strong. Hiring more staff as the program is growing.

4. Middle school schedule, curriculum and room rotation update

Chris shared final middle school schedule. Room rotation going well.

5. 2016-17 CAASP results and internal assessments – Postponed

6. Board member nomination and vote

Public comments: Several community members expressed the desire to see younger grades represented on the board. One parent expressed an interest in seeing the board expanded in number. Two people requested delaying the vote to ensure all members of the Spark community had a chance to participate. (The board declined to do this as the opening had been publicized through several school communications and at multiple venues for several months). One parent suggested that the board consider holding an open house so the Spark community can learn more about what the board does and the skills/experience needed to do the job.

The board discussed the three candidates: Brandi Wibberley, David O'Brien, and Karen Gumaer. Mayuri made a motion to approve Karen Gumaer as the fifth member of the board. Laura seconded the motion, which passed 3-1 with Shannon opposed and Mayuri, Niti and Laura voting affirmatively.

7. Update on charter renewal process

MS math teacher and former board member Alex Zdravkovic gave a status report re renewal timeline and process. A group of parents is included in the charter renewal working group and is actively involved in the process.

**ADJOURN**

**(10:35 PM)**