

White Pine Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
November 17, 2020  
5:30pm

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Henrietta Tow at 5:30 pm

**Roll Call:** Present – Henrietta Tow, Ed Corbett, Carrissa Herrick, Ashley Barry

**Approve October Minutes:** Motion to approve made by Carrissa Herrick; seconded by Ashley Barry  
4 yes 0 no

**Visitor Comments:** Paul Cummings White Pine Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, speaking on behalf of himself stated concerns “if” a staff member were to get sick with COVID, the building would not have enough substitutes for what could possibly be 2 weeks out. If a teacher is sick, how would a sub teach virtually? Mr. Cummings stated insurance would not cover all of COVID expenses, should a teacher contract COVID.

Elizabeth Patterson Kindergarten teacher for White Pine Academy, speaking on behalf of herself, stated concerns if teachers are out, we will be short of substitutes. She pulls from 8/9 different educational sights for her teaching, how will a substitute do that? She expressed concerns for staff with underlying health concerns. Ms. Patterson stated they are not here to do daycare, but to educate. Our families are a close nit group and often hang out together. As educators we need to be on the side of caution.

**Treasurer Report:** Board reviewed the budget and current expenses for the month of October.

**Approve October Financials:** Motion to approve made by Ashley Barry: seconded Carrissa Herrick  
4 yes 0 no

**Administrator Report:** Ms. Dege stated the school currently has 86 students. To allow for teachers to do their remote learning school dismisses at 1:30 on Wednesdays. Ms. Dege expressed heart felt gratitude to all the parents at White Pine who have been very diligent and supportive. She thanked them all for doing their part, which in turn allows the school to better do it's part.

**Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation:**

**Reconfirm Instructional Delivery Method** – see attached

**Public Comments:** Libby Dusenburey, White Pine Academy 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, speaking on behalf of herself stated, during parent/teacher conferences she had many parents express how grateful they were that our school was open for face to face learning. She expressed the importance of in person schooling, especially for students who struggle. Not all parents are equipped to teach their own child, weather it is on computers or curriculum itself, parents are very grateful we are here for their children.

Paul Cummings, White Pine Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, speaking on behalf of himself, stated the pandemic is very hard on his mother, whom watches the news and watches the cases go up and it gets upsetting to her because she can't do anything about it. We can as a school do something about it, we

can stop it here at White Pine Academy. If our remote learning plan works, why not close the school to face to face and save everyone.

Elizabeth Patterson, White Pine Academy Kindergarten teacher, speaking on behalf of herself stated, she would like the school to reconsider our COVID plan, the risk is not worth it. Ms. Patterson emotionally expressed she could not live with herself if she were to bring the sickness to someone. Again stated she was not a babysitter, all our families are very close and we need to reconsider our plan.  
**Review weekly 2 way interaction – see attached**

**Old Business:** no old business

**New Business:**

- Motion to approve the amended General and lunch budget was made by Ashley Berry; seconded by Ed Corbett 4 yes 0 no

- Approval to form a committee to monitor COVID-19 cases in regards to remaining face to face :

The board was given a list of concerns from some of the staff members, which also reflected in visitors' comments, requesting the school go completely virtual until January 4, 2021.

Board member Carrissa Herrick stated face to face learning is huge for our kids and families. Herrick currently has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who is virtual learning and it sucks. It is extremely detrimental to students who have difficulties learning, or parents who are not educators the ability to help their students. Virtual is not the same no matter how hard a teacher tries to make it so. Face to face has been a God send to her 6<sup>th</sup> grade son. Her 9<sup>th</sup> grader has been begging to go back to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, just so she can be in school. Mrs. Herrick stated as long as our procedures are working and we continue to follow them, we are doing our part.

Board President Henrietta Tow stated, as a parent of 2 children who are doing remote learning, and they ARE NOT doing well. I understand people having underlying conditions but I believe those of us who have them understand our choices when we make them. I believe we should remain open for face to face instruction. Ms. Tow stated she liked the way White Pine Academy created the pod system and runs her office now in the same manner.

Vice President Ashley Berry stated, she is for remaining in person. It is vital to the students who do not learn well virtually or for parents who have difficulty getting there students to care about learning at all. Trustee Ed Corbett stated the importance of schools being open for students who need to feel safe and a sense of normalcy. We have a plan, it is working and we should stay the course.

After all board members voiced their thoughts, Ms. Tow suggested that the board form a committee to review the case data and weather to suggest the school move to remote in 3 weeks. The board agreed. Ed Corbett, Henrietta Tow and Marianne Dege volunteered to be the committee. The committee will meet on November 29, 2020.

- Motion to approve forming Remote/Face to Face learning Committee was made Ed Corbett; seconded by Carrissa Herrick. 4 yes 0 no

**Adjourn:** meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm motioned by Ed Corbett; seconded by Carrissa Herrick 4 yes 0 no

Respectfully Submitted by; Michaeline Meredith 12/15/20

