

**Wai‘alae Elementary Public Charter School
Governing School Board Meeting
Minutes of March 23, 2021**

I. Opening

- A. 6:02 PM: Quorum established and meeting called to order by Chair, Lianna Lam
- B. In attendance: Chair Lam, Scott Chida, Bernard Nunies, Keopu Reelitz, Justin Levinson, Leon Geschwind, Brook Chapman de Sousa, Susan Serrano.
 - 1. By invitation: John Constantinou, Recorder Harley Broyles, Troy Ballard, PJ Foehr
 - 2. Various community members, including school faculty and staff, were in attendance.
- C. Chair Lam addressed community members to open the floor for comments and discuss facilitation of the board meeting.
- D. On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board unanimously approved the 2/23/21 meeting minutes and 3/18/21 special meeting minutes.
- E. Chair Lam proposed an amendment to this meeting’s agenda to add an action item relating to leadership’s proposal to increase in-person learning. The Board voted to approve the amendment.
- F. Chair Lam facilitated a Mission and Vision exercise.

II. School Report

- A. CEO Constantinou delivered the school CEO report
- B. Constantinou discussed in-person learning and presented Task Force Recommendations
 - 1. Building on discussion from 3/18 special meeting, the Task Force recommends shifting to full in-person learning. Constantinou noted that the new CDC recommendations now allow for 3’ distancing.
 - 2. Discussed survey results and feedback through talk story sessions with faculty and staff. Detailed survey results and reports had been shared and considered during 3/18 special meeting.
 - a) 90% of teachers preferred to remain in the blended model
 - b) Emphasized the work that was done to ensure that this decision was student-centered.
 - c) Shared parent survey results
 - 3. Leon discussed visiting the Wai‘alae campus and what he noted about the in-person learning.
- C. Board members asked questions of the CEO and a detailed discussion ensued regarding in-person learning and goals of returning students in-person. Engaged and lengthy discussion followed, with all board members engaging in a detailed discussion of a range of issues (except for one abstention). Particular topics and

considerations discussed included: strong administration/staff support for proposal; strong teacher opposition to proposal; significant parent interest in full-time model; updated CDC recommendations; plans of DOE schools; how to address the needs of vulnerable students; the severe learning and socio-emotional toll of the pandemic on students, families, faculty and staff; the number of school days this proposal would add this year (approx. 20); outdoor education possibilities and readiness, school logistics and safety protocols; covid numbers and new variants, possible staggered start for different grades; metrics for determining when to fully reopen,

- D. Leon made the motion to approve the CEO's proposal, with 100% in-person learning starting April 13th for K-2 and April 20th for 3-5, with the stipulation that admin gives teachers ample time to creative problem solve in the interim (i.e. virtual visits to other 100% in-person schools, time to brainstorm with each other and other schools, etc). Keopu seconded.
 - 1. Three board members voted aye, four board members voted nay, one board member abstained. Motion failed.
- E. Brook made the following motion: that the Board approves and directs school leadership to promptly work with faculty to move toward developing a plan to increase on-site/in-person learning opportunities as soon as possible, reporting back to the board within a month. Bernard seconded. Six board members voted aye, two board members abstained. Motion approved.
 - 1. Clarification was provided to leadership for the GLCs and faculty to come up with a plan, with faculty support. Clarification was requested by the CEO regarding timing, and Board members highlighted that the text of the resolution indicates "promptly" and "as soon as possible," and no later than one month from now.
- F. Justin made the following motion: that the Board approves and directs school leadership to immediately expand onsite distance learning to the extent practicable and without compromising safety standards. Brook seconded.
 - 1. 6 board members voted aye, 1 board member voted nay, 1 board member abstained. Motion approved.
- G. Board discussed drafting and sharing a letter about next steps and moving forward based on the motions made in this meeting.
 - 1. Board will draft letter within the next day to share with parents and families the decisions made during this meeting.

III. Closing

- A. On motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board unanimously approved Board adjourned the meeting to reconvene at another time.
- B. 8:55 PM: Meeting adjourned