Board meeting- Jan. 20, 2016

Welcome- roll call- in attendance: Erin Edmonds, Rachelle Call, Stephanie Hartgrove, Steve Findley, McClean Juggler, Justin Earl, Kevin Long, James Mack, Shawnda Moss, Erin Preston, Jennifer Moulder, Derryl Yeager, Shari Bradley. Excused- Melanie Westcott, Michelle Brockbank

Order for public comment- None

Consent agenda- No minutes available.

Action items-

Discussion items-

Artistic Director- Derryl Yeager, spoke about last concert, amazing, academy is doing well. All teachers doing well. Discussion about next year's schedule will be soon. Would like to see a production class in day school.

Shawnda Moss-Theater Academy- at semester change course work and teachers were changed. More variety and programs to offer students. Higher expectations for the students. Some parent complaints with the higher expectations. Musical opens on Thursday. Students have been amazing. Have had many struggles with not having our own space for practice. UTA was great. Rachelle says her daughter was very prepared for the audition. Got 8 scholarships offered. Is worried that low amount of seniors auditioned for the musical. What is the direction for the drama academy? There may be some attitude left over from last year that is happening. Must change the attitude at the school for the drama. Justin asks is the school showcasing our best talent. Is outside productions helping my resume more than in school? As the quality of productions get better, more students will want to audition for the school musicals. Shawnda would like to see better clarification on what is required for drama students.

The concept of the school is like a conservatory, and the productions are an extra-curricular instead of a requirement. Quality will begat participation, but lack of a venue does not help the program. Moving to the Jr. High is a much better venue for productions. Recommendation is to come with an idea to either require it for the drama.

Principal's report-See attached document. Discussion on credits needed to graduate. The charter says 26 but Mrs. Bradley would like 24 which is the state minimum. A revision to the charter would need to happen and board discussion did not think it would be good at this point. After much discussion it will move to 26 not 28 which the counselor had been told. An email will go out to all parents on the change as soon as possible to alert students as some students have left the school because they could not get enough credits to graduate. Mrs. Bradley pointed out that when a new student transfers in from other districts they do not have enough credits. Alpine is currently 26, and about 65 % of our students come from Alpine. We feel that with the high level of performance classes that the students take it makes it very difficult to get all the credits needed to graduate with most students doing many online classes to finish.

Red Apple reported on the financials of the school. Is working hard to make all bills current as there were many that had lapsed over time and had not been paid. Red Apple comes down weekly to speak to principal and lots of discussion happen during the week to get things in place.

Committee reports- No reports to give. Trust Lands committee did not have their meeting as Michelle has been very sick.

Turn Around committee- Mrs. Bradley discuss how Education Direction came to the school and did the teacher interviews, principal interview, Student focus group and parent focus group. The findings will be released to the principal next week and then she will discuss with the faculty and staff for review. They were very positive and were very pleased that most of the students absolutely love Pioneer and the teachers. They feel the academics teachers really care about them. The parents were impressed as well. There was some concern with communication on the teacher's part that they would like to know if their child is failing before they fail. The company was present at the state meeting with the State Charter School Board and spoke of the process to help Pioneer.

Marketing- Discussion on how to market our school to get more students. The need to have someone go into the schools was discussed. Mrs. Bradley will hire a current employee to go to the schools and talk up Pioneer. The website is also being slammed with advertisements on open enrollment as well as Facebook.

Discussion on the state meeting- Most were a little discouraged, but are energized to focus on how to present our finding in a better light. Justin developed a time line to help with gathering information. Thoughts on meeting up early to have it all prepared and ready to present in Feb. Most realized that we need to give them honest reasons why this school needs and should stay open. Reasons why students are leaving are transportation, not enough time to get the credits needed to graduate, going back to homeschool, going to a neighborhood school because of transportation issues.

Closed executive session- Those invited to stay, all board members, Mrs. Bradley, Red Apple, Steve and McClean, Erin Preston and Jennifer Moulder.