

Vista School Board Minutes

August 24, 2021 Minutes @ 7:30pm

Location: 432 S Tech Ridge Dr Suite 2, St. George, UT 84770 (or virtually via Zoom)

<https://zonos.zoom.us/j/84306598752?pwd=QWZmL2xyanU1SGdva1ZBYzg1SVZGZz09>

Board members present: Michelle Walter, Hillary Osness, Matthew Middione, Josh Aikens, Jacqueline Powell

Others present: Chris Barnum, Marie Ehlers, Kelly Geary, Troy Bradshaw, Christine Hashimoto, Lori McConnell

7:38 PM - CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and Introductions - Matthew Middione

7:40 PM - APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Josh makes a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting. Michelle seconded the motion. Josh says "Aye", Jacque says "Aye", Matthew says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye", Hillary abstains. Approved.

7:45 PM - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lori McConnell read the following prepared statement:

My name is Lori McConnell and I am the 8th grade science and Biology teacher at Vista School. I have taught here for, going on, 11 years. I have been a professional educator for 25 years and have had 6 different principals to work under. I have also observed many principals through the eyes of Dana McConnell, who was an administrator for Washington County School District, as well as my husband's leaders at his schools from Clark County in Nevada and Washington County.

My email today is to voice my support for Mr Sam Gibbs. I do know the whole story in great detail of what he is going through because I reached out to him to ask how I could help, and he trusted me and Kalynn Snow enough to open up and share what he is going through. I felt very strongly that I needed to let you all know that I hope so much that you all will consider hiring Mr. Gibbs back if you find that you must suspend him. Like I said, I have had several principals in my career and he has been the best leader, child advocate and teacher support that I have ever had. When I have had a problem or ever felt in disagreement with him for any reason, I never felt that I couldn't speak freely and openly with him about anything. I always left with a better understanding of his decisions that eased my mind, and always felt great support in times when I was overwhelmed with work. He has never given me a reason to not trust him. He has always had my back as a teacher here. I truly can't imagine Vista School without him as our leader. He has accomplished so much. I was here with the former principal, and although he was a nice man, when Mr. Gibbs began, I was amazed at the positivity, love for education and hard work that he brought with him. He greets the students each day. Visits our classrooms to say good morning most days and knows them individually. That is truly amazing. These last 5 years with Sam Gibbs at our school, I have felt valued and trusted as a professional to do my work. He has been a huge part of Vista's growth in population and infrastructure of this awesome school.

We all make mistakes. I just hope that the mistake he made and has paid for will not keep him from continuing on at Vista. He would be greatly missed. If you need me to come and visit with the board, I would be happy to.

7:48 PM - COMMENTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Troy Bradshaw stated that he supports the board's decision and asks for complete transparency. He reiterated that he encourages us to consider the budget and wants us to be fiscally responsible. He requested that if the board were to have any questions pertaining to the budget that the board could reach

out to him to go over the numbers together.

7:50 PM - BOARD CALENDAR - Next Board Meeting - Thursday, September 16th @ 5pm

7:51 PM - ADJOURN

Josh makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacque seconded the motion. Josh says "Aye", Jacque says "Aye", Matthew says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye", Hillary says "Aye." Approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Matthew asks for a closed session to discuss the character or competence of an individual. Josh makes a motion to open a closed session. Jacque seconded the motion. Josh says "Aye", Jacque says "Aye", Matthew says "Aye", Michelle says "Aye", Hillary says "Aye." Approved unanimously.

To discuss the character or competence of an individual. Requires roll call vote.