



Equity and Excellence for All Students

# Old Town Academy K-8 Charter School Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting

## MEETING LOCATION

2120 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110  
Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
6:00 p.m. PDT

### Call to order

A regular meeting of the Old Town Academy K-8 Charter School Board of Directors, held at 2120 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110 on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, was called to order by Kenneth Morris at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Abby Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade OTA student.

### Attendance

Board Members:

Board Member	Present	Absent
Kenneth Morris, President	X	
James Gartland, Vice President	X	
Ryan Callan, Treasurer	X	
Cathie Berlin, Secretary	X	
Jon Centofranchi, Principal	X	
Gabriel Solis, Teacher Seat	X	
Sarah Ozeroff-Scott, Member	X	
Chris Celentino, Member	X	
Christopher Cole, Member	X	
Mark Burgess, Member	X	
Elio Celentino, Student-Member (non-voting)	X	
Emma Denton, Student-Member (non-voting)	X	

10 of 10 voting board members were present, constituting a quorum.

Members of the public in attendance (as noted from sign-in sheet):

- Nathalie Hirsch
- Bob Hamm
- Roseann Denton
- Lisa Pendleton
- Delano Jones (CSMC)

## Public comment

None.

## Board member comments

Christ Celentino thanked Mr. C and the staff for a great school year last year. He mentioned that OTA is at the top of the pecking order in San Diego due to the hard work of our teachers and students, and that our legacy and our school culture depends on givers, not takers. CCSA is our public advocacy group, and they are having a fundraiser tomorrow. He bought 3 tickets and can't go, so he is offering them to any attendee who would like to go.

Ken Morris said that it's great starting the year with such positive energy. He also mentioned that we received a letter from SDUSD that we are back in good standing.

## Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the prior regular meeting of the board dated August 10, 2016 as written (distributed in advance) was made by Christopher Cole, and seconded by Ryan Callan. The motion passed by all board members present with the exception of Chris Celentino, who abstained.

## Reports (no action taken)

Treasurer Report: Ryan Callan & Delano Jones (CSMC). Delano Jones of Charter School Management Corporation (CSMC), OTA's back-office support provider described the process used to recreate the entire fiscal year in the new system with the information provided to them from TVLC. He described and discussed various entries, answering questions that came up. He and Chris Celentino will get together to drill down on any areas where more information is needed. Ryan Callan displayed the Board Report available in Charter Vision.

Principal's Report: Jon Centofranchi. Jon Centofranchi, OTA Principal, introduced the new second grade teacher: Lisa Pendleton. He let the board know that Ms. Choi, who was to be the new music teacher, moved back to Chicago, and that Mr. Kaneaster will be back at OTA half time. He mentioned that we lost the Kindergarten aide, so he moved Ms. Exerjian there full time and will hire a new first grade assistant. Former OTA board member, and artist Mrs. Mireille DesRosiers-Kutchuk will lead art part time for grades K-3 this year. He spoke about the results of the CAASPP testing data, which were very positive. He said the information is publicly available to anyone who wants to see it and compare our results with those from other schools. He and the staff will dive deeper into the data to see areas for potential growth and improvement. Individual results haven't been made available yet, but will be mailed when they are.

Teacher Liaison Report: Gabriel Solis. 8th Grade Lead Teacher Gabriel Solis echoed Ken Morris' comment about the positive energy this school year, and noted that this is coming from teachers,

parents, the administration, and students. He spoke about the 'Restorative Practices' circles, and how that is going. He updated the board on project-based learning projects planned so far, for example a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math cookbook. He described how middle school students can choose electives, and gave examples of cross-grade involvement among the students.

Office Manager's Report: Nathalie Hirsch. Nathalie Hirsch, OTA office manager, spoke about getting everything together for the cumulative reports, and mentioned that the school needs everyone to send in their financial forms. Seventh graders will need proof of TDAP boosters. She updated the board with all of the enrollment numbers per grade, and how they are working through the waitlist.

Student Representative Report: Elio Celentino/Emma Rose Denton. Emma Rose Denton gave an update about about the new electives for middle school students: Art, Global Awareness, Journalism, and Robotics. Students enjoy having a choice in their studies. She mentioned that Spanish and Music are still mandatory.

Elio Celentino made the board aware of a self-generating petition circulating among some students regarding the dress code (specifically, the sweatshirt policy). He also gave a positive update on how the Principal's Advisory Committee is going so far this year.

Real Estate Subcommittee Update: James Gartland. James Gartland gave an update on the Real Estate Subcommittee. The subcommittee has put together a packet for the consultant to complete with information related to various site options. He also mentioned that, as he's become more educated about the market, it has set his mind at ease that we're getting fair value for our money at the current site. We have nice big classrooms, an atrium, a great layout, and it meets our current needs. We will continue to vet out all of the options as we look to the future regarding managing our costs, but we're also happy with what we currently have. He mentioned that we were not awarded any Proposition Z funds, but can apply this November for funds (which would become available in 2020).

OTA Parent Foundation Update: Monika Hanft. Monika Hanft, OTA Parent Foundation President gave an update on Foundation-related matters. This has been a busy month. A room parent has been assigned in every class. Movie night is this Friday, hosted by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, beginning at 6pm. If any OTA supporter has a barbecue, the school could really use another one. Monika requested that all parents check out the 'Bridge the Gap' campaign at [www.otafoundation.org](http://www.otafoundation.org), the goal is \$360.00 per student. The foundation is funding the K-3 art program that Mr. C mentioned earlier. Jog-a-thon information went out to students and sponsors, and we're looking forward to a successful fundraiser. Chris Celentino mentioned that the 501(c)(3) status has been restored.

## **New business action items and sub-committee reports requiring action**

Action Item: Ratification of the Unaudited Actuals for 2015-2016 as reviewed, revised, and submitted by delegated authority of the Fiscal Subcommittee to SDUSD on September 15, 2016. Motion to approve and ratify was made by Chris Celentino, and seconded by James Gartland. The motion passed unanimously by all board members.

Action Item: Approve revision of the OTA Employee Handbook (distributed in advance of Wednesday, September 21, 2016). The group discussed some minor revisions prior to voting. Motion to approve was made by Chris Celentino, and seconded by Chris Cole, subject to these modifications: (1) throughout the document find and replace 'Chief Executive Officer' with 'OTA Board Chair or President'; and (2) on page 59, change '7:30 or 7:45' with '7:30'. The motion passed by all voting board members with the exception of James Gartland, who abstained.

Action Item: Retention of School Consultant for the 2016/2017 School Year. The board discussed the fact that, in the August meeting, it had voted to pay the consultant's fees for the month of September, and his services weren't used in September, and he hadn't billed us for September. A motion was made to trail the item to the October meeting, and authorize the Real Estate Subcommittee to use the preauthorized amount of \$1,700 for these services in their discretion. Motion to approve was made by Chris Celentino, and was seconded by Cathie Berlin. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present.

Action Item: Approve 8/6/16 to 9/16/16 Warrant listing (distributed in advance on Wednesday, September 21, 2016). Motion to approve was made by Ryan Callan, and seconded by Chris Celentino. The motion passed unanimously by all board members.

### Public comment on closed session items

None.

### Closed session

The board entered closed session at 8:15 p.m. to confer with legal counsel regarding: Pending litigation – OTA v. Donahue and related matters.

### Report on closed session items

After conferring with legal counsel, the board came out of closed session at 8: 42 p.m. and reported that they met with counsel and are hoping to settle this matter soon.

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.