



Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:45pm  
Barlow Park Journey Elementary School  
100 Ringstad Dr.  
Ripon, WI 54971

**Barlow Park Charter School Mission:**

Barlow Park Charter School's responsive environment will encourage all learners to reach their fullest personal potential and become well-balanced, compassionate, curious citizens.

**Barlow Park Charter School Vision:**

Setting a positive trajectory for lifetime learning.

Present: K. Grady, S. Gartzke, C. Damm, H. Hopp, R. Metoxen, J. Rigden, T. Fox, A. Dodson and T. Scottberg rep from WRCCS

- I. Call to Order **called at 5:51 by K. Grady**
  - a. Mission and vision **Read by J. Rigden**
- II. Review & approval of minutes from October 2023 meeting **J. Rigden motioned, K. Grady approved**
- III. Community Input
- IV. Treasurer's Report **Reviewed with the highlight of medical premiums J. Rigden made motion, K Grady approved**
- V. WRCCS Trainings/Corrective Action (10-15 min)
  - a. **Reviewed roles of authorizer, school leader, and governance board. Reviewed components of charter school contract. Discussed Performance Measures and the ease of review. A discussion of what goals we have for BPC this year.**
- VI. Administrator and Teacher Reports
  - a. Teacher Report **Dates coming up- Power of play 21- Tailgate party, compound word work. Talked about a parent table during this (5:15-6:15). January 3 and 8- field trips to Paine Art Center, chaperones needed 9:00-1:45.**
  - b. Admin Report - BPC Teacher Meeting Update
    - i. **Setting goals for attendance for Parent Teacher Conferences- building wide 96% attendance with 15 students not reached. At the end of the last meeting we mentioned the future of BPC- he met with each teacher for 30 minutes, during which those teachers responded. S. Gartzke shared a summary of those meetings:**

*What key points would you like me to share with the Governance Council?*

- *I met with each BPC teacher for 30 minutes each. During these meetings teachers were asked to respond to the following questions.*
  - *With the charter ending at the end of this year, what are your hopes for BPC?*
  - *How do you feel about the way that competency bands are going/being used?*
  - *Talk to me about the way that play based learning looks in your classroom right now.*
  - *What do you see as an area of strength?*
  - *What is an area for improvement?*
  - *What other comments do you have that we haven't covered already?*

- *I compiled all the comments. We met as a whole team to look over compiled comments and discussed.*

*Do the BPC staff want the charter to continue past its current cycle?*

- *No, the team reached a consensus that this is not what BPC staff desire going forward.*

*Joint statement from teachers:*

- *I truly appreciated the opportunity to talk to each teacher and commend them for their honest and open communication. There were some central themes that came out of these conversations. First and foremost, the pride that the BPC staff has in their care for each individual student was evident. They spoke often about how they see all students as their students and the support they show for each other. Teachers spoke about the desire to implement best practices into what they do and wanting to find out what is in the best interest of students. Time was also a central theme. Staff are putting in major amounts of time to make the current practices work. There is frustration that these practices are getting inconsistent results and that there has been a constant churning of ideas trying to make a square peg fit into a round hole. The data also does not show that the current model is getting the intended results. There are mixed feelings about two of the major tenants of the charter, competency bands and play based learning. Some feel that competency bands are good practice but have been hard to put into place in a manageable way that works for kids. Others feel that the many transitions cause behavior issues and lost learning time as well as losing the peer models that occur in more “traditional” classrooms along with appropriate instruction. In regards to play based learning, most of the staff agree that it has a place in our K-2 classrooms, but that current practices look more like free play than the purposeful and intentional play originally planned for in the charter. Staff desire to create a school that allows them to do their best and meet the needs of all students. This would be done through collaboration and conversations as we move forward, taking what we have learned and applying it in different ways.*

- ii. *The entire team met with C. Damm. Data doesn’t represent the outcomes. They would like to have one school. Creates a lot of positive possibilities. Dr. Whitrock has been a part of conversations. Next year could be a gap year possibly- grade levels could have lunch together, with lots of collaborations. Next year is not that attainable that quickly. When February comes around during school choice- what will happen? Use this as an opportunity to use what is best for kids using pieces from both models.*

#### VII. New Business - Discussion of BPC

- Ripon is known as an innovative district.*
- Brought up what we can do without the charter, things would look different, but not unmanageable.*
- We have a timeline to determine the status. Discussion of a local agreement with the idea that a local agreement is not needed. Competency bands can be shared across grade level. It would take SEL learning and play based learning isn’t being used with the full basis of the charter- how to incorporate it into full day with SEL. DPI minutes would need to be watched more carefully.*
- A vote was motioned by J. Rigden. Voted approved to not renew the BPC contract. Discussion with teachers about best practices why we are here. The concept of time and how much work has been done to achieve the data. The variables have changed because of curriculum or competency based. The ability to work together to use what has worked best for each.*
- Concerns of what are the options for my child and how is this affecting me now. What is the next phase. The road needs to be clear.*
- Recruiting- PTO to help and support.*
- Conversation about a local agreement. Another conversation should be had with teaching staff about the idea of a local agreement. Meetings may be moved around to assist in decision making.*

#### VIII. Council Sub-Committees - N/A for now

IX. Old Business & Additional Discussion Items

X. Adjourn motion to adjourn **J. Rigden and A. Dodson 7:24 PM**

**Future Meeting Dates:**

December 12, 2023

January 9, 2024

February 13, 2024

March 12, 2024

**Council Members:**

Katie Grady (Chair) - Cathy Scheier (Treasurer) - Ashley Dodson (Secretary) - Jason Kauffeld - Jean Rigden