



Journey Charter School Governance Council Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2015
5:30 PM
BPES and Journey Media Center
Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Shelly Kastenschmidt, Sarah Rieder, Carrie Naparalla, Steve Nankervis, Tanya Sanderfoot, Heather Donovan, Nicole Mashock, Joel Spaulding, Brett Long, Amy Pollesch

Absent:

I. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

II. Approval of August meeting minutes

Brett Long made the motion to accept the August meeting minutes. Nicole Mashock second. Motion approved.

III. Community Input

No community input

V. Treasurer's Report/Remaining grant money expenditures

Checking Account: \$8835.12

Webster's Foundation Grants: \$1,371.62

Grant: \$0.00

VII. Committee Reports

a. Sustainability

- Committee Volunteers: Pizza Fundraiser had majority of the volunteers with both Father/Daughter and Mom/Son events having a few. Committee will be meeting on 9/22 8:10 at Mugs.

b. Policy & Planning

c. Community Relations

- Dropped JCS brochures off at area businesses
- 314 building downtown is open if JCS would like to host events there. Need to find out what the formality is for signing up to use the building to host art events and/or for the kids to listen to other art/theatre events that are hosted there.
- Committee will be meeting 10/1 @ 6:30

d. Academic Excellence

VIII. Old Business & Discussion Items

a. Family Cookout Feedback

- Indoor and outdoor events worked well with each other. Food amounts worked great and saved money by Shelly cutting veggies/fruits (next year this can be done ahead of time as a group).
- Focus this year was more on meeting other families instead of just activity hopping like last year.
- Add teacher name onto name tag.
- Cost: 669.61
- Next year August 16, 2016 @ 5:30

b. Journey Charter School Review Results

Feedback from Dr Steven Rippe, Director of Organization Development ISN

- Very positive results from teacher survey
- Continue toward JCS vision and always move forward toward that vision.
- He likes that our fundraisers are built around family time (Father/Daughter and Mom/Son events)
- Make sure teachers are trained and comfortable with the training that they receive.
- Keep looking for grants

VIII. Administrator's and Teacher's Reports

a. Class numbers & waiting lists

Kindergarten: 41 Journey/45 Barlow

1st Grade: 43 Journey/61 Barlow (2 on wait list)

2nd Grade: 38 Journey/55 Barlow

34.4% of Journey students are on free/reduced lunch (would have qualified for Title 1 if at 35%)

IX. New Business

a. Teachers will be meeting every 4th Tuesday/month

b. Welcome Letter will be sent to all students

c. Tower Gardens

-Steve was approached with the idea of adding Tower Gardens at Journey. A fully functioning and ready to go unit would cost approximately \$1000. A meeting was going to be scheduled with other members from the RASD if Journey would like to participate and get more information. Tower Gardens have been installed at Ripon College and UW-O.

Next Meeting- October 12th at 5:30PM in the BPES and JCS Media Center

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

*Why Project Based Learning? handout is attached (distributed by Shelly at meeting)

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Rieder, Secretary

Why Project Based Learning (PBL)?

From the Buck Institute, www.bie.org

Project Based Learning's time has come. The experience of thousands of teachers across all grade levels and subject areas, [backed by research](#), confirms that PBL is an effective and enjoyable way to learn - and develop [deeper learning](#) competencies required for success in college, career, and civic life. Why are so many educators across the United States and around the world interested in this teaching method? The answer is a combination of timeless reasons and recent developments.

- **PBL makes school more engaging for students.** Today's students, more than ever, often find school to be boring and meaningless. In PBL, students are active, not passive; a project engages their hearts and minds, and provides real-world relevance for learning.
- **PBL improves learning.** After completing a project, students understand content more deeply, remember what they learn and retain it longer than is often the case with traditional instruction. Because of this, students who gain content knowledge with PBL are better able to apply what they know and can do to new situations.
- **PBL builds success skills for college, career, and life.** In the 21st century workplace and in college, success requires more than basic knowledge and skills. In a project, students learn how to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively.
- **PBL helps address standards.** The Common Core and other present-day standards emphasize real-world application of knowledge and skills, and the development of success skills such as critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, communication in a variety of media, and speaking and presentation skills. PBL is an effective way to meet these goals.

PBL provides opportunities for students to use technology. Students are familiar with and enjoy using a variety of tech tools that are a perfect fit with PBL. With technology, teachers and students can not only find resources and information and create products, but also collaborate more effectively, and connect with experts, partners, and audiences around the world.

PBL makes teaching more enjoyable and rewarding. Projects allow teachers to work more closely with active, engaged students doing high-quality, meaningful work, and in many cases to rediscover the joy of learning alongside their students.

PBL connects students and schools with communities and the real world.

Projects provide students with empowering opportunities to make a difference, by solving real problems and addressing real issues. Students learn how to interact with adults and organizations, are exposed to workplaces and adult jobs, and can develop career interests. Parents and community members can be involved in projects.

What is Project Based Learning (PBL)?

From the Buck Institute, www.bie.org

Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. In [Gold Standard PBL](#), Essential Project Design Elements include:

- **Key Knowledge, Understanding, and Success Skills** - The project is focused on student learning goals, including standards-based content and skills such as critical thinking/problem solving, collaboration, and self-management.
- **Challenging Problem or Question** - The project is framed by a meaningful problem to solve or a question to answer, at the appropriate level of challenge.
- **Sustained Inquiry** - Students engage in a rigorous, extended process of asking questions, finding resources, and applying information.
- **Authenticity** - The project features real-world context, tasks and tools, quality standards, or impact – or speaks to students’ personal concerns, interests, and issues in their lives.
- **Student Voice & Choice** - Students make some decisions about the project, including how they work and what they create.
- **Reflection** - Students and teachers reflect on learning, the effectiveness of their inquiry and project activities, the quality of student work, obstacles and how to overcome them.
- **Critique & Revision** - Students give, receive, and use feedback to improve their process and products.
- **Public Product** - Students make their project work public by explaining, displaying and/or presenting it to people beyond the classroom.

Three reasons to choose Journey Charter School:

1. Teachers have the flexibility to teach the standards in a way that best meets student needs

2. Multi-age focus with community partners (As a school, we are out and about in the community monthly and bring in experts to talk with students on a monthly basis)
3. True PBL (project-based learning) affords students the opportunity to solve real world questions through active learning and peer collaboration