



Walden Board of Trustees Agenda

Walden is a place where social, emotional, and academic growth are valued equally, a place where students see possibilities, make meaningful choices, take risks, and emerge with a stronger sense of identity, belonging and purpose. It is a place where critical thought, creativity and independence are nurtured; where empathy, cultural awareness and tolerance are valued. We champion student choice and autonomy, authentic research and project work. Our purpose is to develop competent, self-motivated learners dedicated to making positive contributions to society.

7/27/2020 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Invited: Justin Kennington, Matt Turner, Joe Rankin, Diana West, Sharon Beecroft, Lois Bobo, Hannah West, Jeremy Knee, Hilary Hungerford, Breanne Moore

Format: Electronic -- email correspondence and voting online with an option to vote at the anchor location (4230 North University Avenue, Provo, UT). Votes will be accepted between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

Participating:

Agenda

- **Approvals**

1. **Budget Approval** Diana spoke with USBE's financial auditor, Brett Baltazar to make certain it would be acceptable to add several grants that we have recently secured to our previously approved budget. He approved that change. Brett also approved two minor changes to correct formula errors in the initial budget that have since been corrected. The corrections increased our overall Instructional expenses by close to \$40,000. Overall our FY21 Original Budget (approved by the board on June 29th). Our receipt of these grants was confirmed just days after our meeting. He indicated that we will remain in compliance if we approve this change. we are in better shape than the original budget indicated. We will not have to dig as deeply into our reserves as planned. Please direct questions to Diana (diana@waldenschool.us). The proposal is that we approve the revised budget as presented. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner

- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore- (aye)

2. **School Land Trust**: The Utah State Board of Education inadvertently failed to include Charter Schools in their motion to postpone the date for board approval of the 2020-21 School LAND Trust Plan. The Land Trust Board has let us know it is imperative that, as soon as possible, we have our plan approved by our governing board. Please direct questions to Sharon (sharon@waldenschool.us). The proposal is that we approve the School Land Trust Proposal. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore (aye)

3. **EARLY LITERACY PLAN 2020-2021** This linked document is the grant proposal that provides us funding for our literacy program in the early grades. Each year, we are required to meet two significant early literacy goals associated with documented needs. The state has required us to adopt the same goals as last year due to the fact that schools were unable to collect valid or reliable year-end data. This plan with its two goals requires board approval. Please direct questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). The proposal is that we approve the grant as written with any recommendations USBE may suggest. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore (aye)

4. **LEA-Specific Educator License Policy** :Adopting a policy now will allow school administration the ability to hire needed teachers for the 20-21 school year that do not yet have their associate or professional educator license. This policy is based on USBE R277-301. Please direct questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). It is recommended that the Board

approve the LEA-Specific Educator License Policy. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford
- Breane Moore (aye)

4a. Approval of an LEA-Specific Educator License for [Christopher Johnson](#). On Wednesday of this past week, one of our elementary teachers quit unexpectedly and will be leaving the area. It is particularly difficult to find a teacher who has both Montessori and State licensure. Finding such a teacher on such short notice is likely impossible. We did have the resume on file of Chris Johnson who has his Montessori credential and a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution. He has been working as an assistant teacher at another Montessori Charter school. I have checked his references which are very good (including his current employer). I think we are very lucky to have him. It is recommended that the Board grant him an LEA-Specific Educator License for 3 years to give him time to complete a licensure program while teaching. Please direct questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore (aye)

5. [Updated Reopening Plan](#): The Walden Board of Trustees approved the Walden reopening plan in our last meeting. However, the state recently provided a template that must be completed, approved by the board, submitted to the state and posted on the school website by August 1. This is basically the same plan as previously approved but it is slightly different due to the change

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d858ae10-c42d-4d7f-912f-8100c678bdc7n> format. Please direct questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). It is recommended that the Board approve the school reopening template. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)

- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore (aye)

6. [Calendar Update](#): In January we approved the 2020-2021 school calendar with a start date of August 24. Recently, the state board of education approved amendments to Administrative Rule R277-419 Pupil Accounting adjusting the 180-day/990-hour requirements to provide more flexibility to districts and charter schools including waiving the 990-hour requirement if a district or charter submits a request for the 2020-21 school year only describing how it will ensure continuity of teaching and learning by providing high-quality instruction that includes blended learning and formative assessment strategies. We would like to push back the day of regularly scheduled classes by one week to August 31. Teachers will begin the year on their regular contract schedule and will use the extra week between August 24th and 28th of the original school year to 1) meet virtually or in person with students and parents who will be learning from home to create a plan that will best support that family. This is especially crucial for our younger elementary students and for students transitioning to Walden for the first time. 2) Bring students into school to administer academic assessments. We will administer our state-required assessments, as appropriate, during this time. This will allow teachers to better support student needs and learning when classes begin particularly since end of year assessment data is not available. 3) Distribute laptops and other devices to students before online learning begins. 4) Hold IEP and 504 meetings to adjust services and placements for students who have opted for distance or blended learning. 5) Provide training to students and parents on how to use our online resources. Please direct questions to Lois (lois@waldenschool.us). It is recommended that the Board approve the change to the start date for the 2020-2021 school year. All in favor (aye or nay)?

- Justin Kennington (aye)
- Matt Turner
- Joe Rankin (aye)
- Jeremy Knee (aye)
- Hilary Hungerford (aye)
- Breane Moore (aye)