



## Minutes of a Curriculum Workshop of the Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

A session of the Board of Directors, Hayden Canyon Charter School, held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting held at 13590 N Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835.

### **I. Open the Meeting 6:30 pm**

- A. Board Members in Attendance:** Ryan Crandall, Colleen Kolobow, Alex Tull, Nathan Wright, Paula Conley, Violet Rudd
- B. Board Clerk:** Bridgette Dahlstrom
- C. Operational Director:** Bill Rutherford
- D. Curriculum Committee Members:**
  - 1. Parents:** Kaylyn Ontiveros, Jana Nichols, Rebekah Preston-Dunn, Sarah Lynch, Krystal Poland, Lacey Protopappas, Heather Gibson, Roxanne Garber, Heather King, Georgie Messuri
  - 2. Educators:** Jadrian Watson, Jen MacKeage, Michelle Hull
  - 3. Community Member:** Leann Williams

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **III. Procedural Matters *Action***

- A.** Motion to that the board approve the agenda as presented by Alex Tull, seconded by Nathan Wright.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Unscheduled Delegations (Audience to Address the Board)**

- A.** Dustin Veneklassen
  - 1. Feels topics in We Are CREW textbook teaches topics that should only be taught at home.
  - 2. Feels HCC should stay within basic subjects of Math, English, Science, and History and should not go outside those subjects.

### **V. Summary of Committee Recommendation**

- A.** Presented by Bill Rutherford
  - 1. History of committee purpose, formation, and makeup
  - 2. We Are CREW book has been part of HCC since its opening

### **VI. Individual Committee Viewpoints**

- A.** Sara Lynch: In Favor of adopting curriculum as is
  - 1. Believes not adopting book as a whole will do a disservice to students within our school
- B.** Leann Williams: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW curriculum as is
  - 1. Presented the position the committee agreed upon at their last meeting: "Committee supports We Are CREW as a guideline and resource for teachers to use without adopting specific lesson plans, examples, or political views held within the book."
- C.** Kaylyn Ontiveros: Opposed to adopting We Are CREW curriculum
  - 1. Does not feel there is a safe way to adopt the curriculum as a whole without opening the door for conversations that are against board policy to occur.
  - 2. Recommends looking at more of a project based curriculum
- D.** Heather King: Opposed to adopting We Are CREW curriculum
  - 1. Feels there are topics in the book that belong at home, not at school.
  - 2. Feels the curriculum is missing how to deal with negative feelings and emotions.
- E.** Jadrian Watson: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW as a resource, guideline, and tool
  - 1. Teachers use the book as a resource to learn tools that will enable them to facilitate conversations in the classroom. It is not used as a curriculum. Teachers know their opinion does not belong in the classroom.

2. Believes the book does cover negative feelings and emotions and help students feel safe and willing to learn in the school.
3. Believes it is a fundamental part of HCC's foundation
4. Felt after the end of the last committee meeting that it was the committee's position to adopt the book as a resource with a disclaimer to help guide teachers in proper use of the resource.
5. Teachers are not allowed to share their own opinions, their role is to teach students "how" to think not "what" to think.

Violet Rudd joined the meeting at 6:59pm

- F. Jen MacKeage: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW as a resource for teachers
  1. CREW at HCC follows the design principles of character education, sharing, team building activities, and reading age appropriate books based on HCC character traits.
  2. Feels the structure and culture building from the book are a beneficial part of CREW, it encourages community building and support regardless of personal beliefs.
  3. HCC teachers write the curriculum for HCC students, there is no curriculum provided in the book.
  4. Shared that as a teacher, the book and videos are examples of how to facilitate a hard conversation - it is a training, not lesson plans or guidelines on what to be taught.
- G. Lacey Protopappas: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW with reservations
  1. Wants to ensure a political lens is not added to anything being taught.
  2. Staff members use the book as a resource while staying within their scope of knowledge such as involving a counselor when needed.
  3. Feels the book will help teachers learn how to better handle sensitive topics that may come up within the classroom and see other people's life experiences.
  4. Feels resource is appropriate, and should be reviewed, by all staff members that are involved in the classroom (including paras and subs).
- H. Michelle Hull: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW as a resource but not a lesson plan
  1. We Are CREW emphasizes building a community and promotes everyone feeling valued and accepted
  2. Book should be used to guide lesson plans - not as a lesson plan - to create lessons that align with CREW philosophy while meeting academic standards
  3. Emphasized the book is not a curriculum, it is a foundation and resource

Violet Rudd left the meeting at 7:25pm

- I. Krystal Poland: Opposed to adopting We Are CREW
  1. Feels that using only pieces of the book will not be beneficial to the school.
- J. Georgie Messuri:
  1. Questions regarding project based learning and how that will be used in the school without EL curriculum.
    - a) Philosophy of what HCC does would change if the character education curriculum changes.
- K. Jana Nichols: Opposed to adopting We Are CREW
  1. Does not believe there is a way to remove 50% of the book and expect teachers to filter out what is in the book.
- L. Roxanne Garber: In Favor of We Are CREW as a limited resource
  1. Believes the book is very heavy on one side of the political spectrum rather than equally covering both sides
  2. Believes Chapter 5, Chapter 2, and all videos should not be used at HCC
  3. Feels divisive material should be removed and culture be created by staff
- M. Rebekah Preston-Dunn: In Favor of adopting We Are CREW
  1. Shared the CREW at HCC has given her children the belief that school is a safe place to succeed and to fail

N. Heather Gibson: Opposed to adopting We Are CREW

1. Does not feel that the textbook adheres to policy requirements that “textbooks and instructional material should provide quality learning experiences for students and Depict in an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American Society.”
2. Feels it is not an accurate representation of the students at HCC or America’s schools.

O. Bill Rutherford

1. Shared that teachers understand what board policies are regarding topics that should be discussed at home and CREW lessons are not allowed to include these topics.
2. Shared that any character curriculum is going to include issues that are covered in the We Are CREW curriculum.

**VII. Board Member Questions to Committee**

- A. How comfortable is an educator with giving a student a textbook and having them ignore part of it?
1. Jadrian: that happens quite often in any school, there needs to be a level of trust that educators are able to do their job in an appropriate manner.
- B. How has the book been used to train staff?
1. Bill: Staff members read the book and completed a book study together. They had a conversation regarding concerns and issues in the book and what is against board policy or does not belong in our school.
  2. Bill is willing to create a binder that pulls the best parts of We Are CREW for review, approval, and recommendation of the committee.

**VIII. Board Decisions (Discussion and Action Items)**

A. We are CREW curriculum

1. Nathan Wright:
  - a) Is in favor of Bill’s idea of creating our own CREW curriculum.
  - b) Start with figuring out monthly topics and share those with parents each month.
2. Ryan Crandall:
  - a) The perfect curriculum does not exist, being able to customize and hand pick what is in our CREW curriculum is ideal.
  - b) Board Policy limits what can be taught in the classroom.
  - c) If a teacher wants to push a controversial topic, they don’t need a book to do it.
3. Alex Tull:
  - a) Wants teachers to have something that can be used to train and is consistent across the school. Wants teachers to know how/when to direct students to the appropriate resource. If there isn’t guidance, how can they be held accountable?
4. Colleen Kolobow:
  - a) The book appears to be a compilation of various parts of EL, being able to pick what we want from the book is the best option.
5. Motion that the book be sent back to the awesome curriculum committee to assemble, in essence, a binder that we want to use as a training guide to teach CREW by Nathan Wright, seconded by Colleen Kolobow. Motion carried with Colleen Kolobow, Nathan Wright, and Paula Conley voting Aye, Alex Tull voted Nay.
  - a) Binder to be assembled by the curriculum committee and presented to the board for approval at a future date.

B. Committee Recommendation

1. No action to be taken at this time.

**IX. Adjournment 8:40 pm**