



# Kua O Ka Lā

A New Century Public Charter School

**Kua O Ka La NCPCS  
Governing Board Minutes  
42 Kinoole Street  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Commenced at 10:15am

Attendees:

Kenneth Makuakane  
Violet Makuakane  
Kaimi Kaupiko  
Dr. David Sing  
Dr. Ku Kahakalau  
Susie Osborne  
Kapoula Thompson  
Kelly Roberts -via zoom  
Bonnie Gibault – via Zoom  
Donna Therrien from the Charter Commission office

Excused:

Glen Calvert  
Maile Nihipali  
Dr. Marta Forero-Wayne

Ho`olauna -introductions

Donna from the CSC

Donna has been hired through the Commission as the School Lead and assigned to support our school 1 of 10 assigned.

will provide guidance, advocate, be the liaison rep for our team at the commission

**Approval of Agenda/Minutes**

**Agenda Changes:**

NOC Exhibit A Note change from vote to note

Board meeting Calendar adjustment need to add vote under announcements

Move to approve amended agenda: Kaimi

2nd: Aunty Violet

All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve the August 14, 2019 Agenda Approved

Approval of minutes

Move to approve minutes - Kaimi

2<sup>nd</sup>: Kenneth

Discussion:

small change Kahakalau (spelling)

KU: request to add page numbers to minutes

page #4 academic committee NOTE taking clarify the information

Move to approve the amended minutes: Kaimi

All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion to Approve Minutes Approved.

Susie acknowledgment Karina for taking minutes due to Mailes absence

### **Public testimony**

None

### **June 2019 financials/Board report approval (Bonnie)**

Financial board approval:

Susie: introduces Bonnie to present the June 2019 Financials

The Org/Finance Committee went line by line in detail of the June year- end financial, The Committee will recommend the approval of the year end June Financials.

Bonnie: comments, 3 major points. 1. Pg. #8 change in net position moved to a positive this past year..

Notes on page #10 - remaining items:

Discussion with Commission Title 1 monitoring, xerox cost for coverage

The Commission will work with us on descriptions being more generic, because we did not list print will not approve, Cindy said she will advocate for the expenses she had told us to procure including, projectors, laptop cart. Bonnie will record the liability just in case, \$12,000.00

2. Accrued vacation need to be recorded, as it is a liability, upon separation, so would like to book this cost.

Commission Financial Risk Assessment Susie reminded the Board on the training we held last year on the commission fiscal risk assessment. We are on 1.8 low risk. After one more year of having a net income positive we should fall in lowest category. Susie asked Bonnie to explain category, low acceptable moderate high significant.

Kenneth: 1-5 scale?

Bonnie confirmed 5 is a high risk. and criteria and confirmed we meet measure and one more year will be low.

3. Bonnie reviewed the "blood pressure test".

60 days cash on hand is one of the Commission measures. KOKL needs to have \$744,000.00 in order to meet that requirement. It is like a rainy day fund, there be likely a year we may need it. Bonnie suggests we make a restriction and earmark it. Ku: very good idea on the blood pressure report so we have a realistic understanding of actually how much funding is available to us. Bonnie: noted. Ku: asked for anything further or added?

Bonnie: I am now taking questions. I am done with report.

Ku: Move to approve the June 2019 Financials:

2nd: Kenneth

All in favor of approving the move to approve the year end financial? Unanimous  
Motion approved.

**Audit update:**

Bonnie working with Jannette on preparing for our annual audit commencing Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup>.

CW is our Auditor. We will be having a A-133 audit again this year which is the larger audit.

**NOC/Exhibit A**

Changed from Vote to Note

We have had 2 NOC's in the past several months

NOC #1: One in the summer which is provided here. This was for Kapoula to review data provided by the DOE and confirm it is correct.

Kapoula reviewed data and then submitted to the DOE and the Notice of Concern documentation was then provided to the Commission. We requested that they put these DOE requests on the epicenter software that provides us with the notifications and due dates for Commission items so that we are aware that these tasks will generate a NOC.

NOC#2.

The schools contract Exhibit A indicates grade K-12 campus grade 4-12 hybrid/online. In SY 2018/2019 we inadvertently enrolled students in K-3 hybrid/online and discovered this when the Commission provided a new format for enrollment projections. The mistake occurred due to the challenges of the lava, multiple sites including the office in a new space and a new online program that included K-3. We immediately called the Commission to notify Sione. This was in May 2019. Two weeks prior to the Commission meeting, Sione provided us with the information that the Commission had voted on a moratorium for new grades with hybrid/online classes. We were not aware of this. We had submitted an Exhibit A change to the Commission that was board approved in March but never got on the Commission agenda. In August, 2019, we went before the Commission board, and proposed an action research opportunity in collaboration with the Commission in addressing their concerns for online learning. They were very upset that we had continued enrolling students in K-3 this year and did not entertain the research proposal. They voted on only allowing the students that were enrolled with us in the SY2017/2018 and not allowing the students we enrolled this year. This means we need to find homes for 20 K-3 students once school had already started. The response NOC was provided to the Commission on time.

New Office. Kamehameha Schools donated the current office at 42 Kinoole street for one year and the landlord informed us in the summer that repairs to the roof need to occur and we need to find a new space. We secured a site on Kilauea Street in the Meryll Lynch building.

**High School Closure Discussion**

Ku: HS closure discussion occurred in the Academic Committee. There are all kinds of concerns about on line 9-12, research shows at this time. Suggestions: keep current grade 9, 10 &11 grade on line and move them up so they can graduate with us. What we wanted was for

Kapoula to draft a plan for the committee and then vote on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

This is what came out of academic committee. Discussions now are for the whole board. Is there anything to share but we wanted to make sure decision is made early for smooth transition for other schools and staff. Kapoula will draft and provide input for both.

Kaimi: I understand that this was being discussed but I did not know we were that far along in the discussions. We still have not had time to properly discuss and it will be hard for families to figure out what to do. Online could be used until we build better system for our students. I am concerned about discussion about the closure. Kaimi: we need more time. what does the data show? Kenneth: another option, move all the students through the system before the closure. Ku: we are not attached to closure, as much as possible we need student data, surveys on how they are doing, get some idea, the hand- on experiences. The on- line program needs to come and present, their data and their concerns. Right now the Board has not received anything.

Kapoula: I shared a presentation, clarified that there was a lot of information. Ku: it was too late in the year, last year so we postponed to this year with the idea of starting early then making the decision as early as September or October. Most importantly we need data, how the teachers feel, how the students are doing?

Kaimi: our students have worked hard, they do not have other options, because there are no school options. Please keep online hs as an option, but now the discussion is coming back to close hs totality . This is why the online school was created. How does this play out in the bigger picture? I am confused about how it moved to close hs campus and now the discussion is to close entire hs, and not keep online. Ku: one concern, was not meeting graduate rate.

Susie: we met the graduation rates in our contract not with the SBAC Strive High scores. Ku: if collectivity is more important, quality ed above strive hi, if we need to look big picture for survival of the school. no right or wrong, what we feel is priority for KOKL. then make a decision on that, for example, if we can help 1- 5 students.

David: The sentiments have been shared. I do want to inquire if there is a fiscal impact and if it is a positive or negative impact. Susie: that is what is concerning me. We must soon do our 5-year financial budget projections for our renewal and this will help us to understand the financial impacts of a potential hs closure. I have mixed feelings, in that I understand and agree that tightening our core program is critical. We started our online program with Miloli'i on line, and high school because so many students were not graduating. They had a 60% drop our rate due to the distance they had to travel to their school. This is one of the main reasons why we started. But I also completely support Kapoula's thinking in why he wants to close and his goal for the academic program. Ku: we haven't received specific data, but we will do a survey. Survey would include part A students new students and part b returning

students. Research the data on how satisfied the students are. For me, parent and student ratification and teachers, meaning it isn't working for them. It has to work for our population.

Susie: what about the KS survey, with Aukahi, with Hawaiian focused education? Will that provide us with any data? Kapoula: yes, we have talked about, this decision is not a "me"

thing. This is in the best interest of the students and the school, never should we vote for me but for the kids. Its on line students as well. I want to make sure you hear me say that. hs: have Shari and

Pilimai help out with this data research. Where do we place importance? at the same time we are looking for student to help students be successful? Students with academic struggles last year and there was a teacher recommendation to retain 32 students. What we will do differently if we keep hs? Historically we have not done a good job. Collectively, we have not been doing a good job with hs, both campus and online. I recognized that and wonder what do we do to make it better? student achievement? we cannot continue to do the same thing and

expect different results? Kaimi: There have been a lot of program changes and program challenges.

Ku: has serious concerns about current online programs. It does require more than just plugging in with no cultural component. As a former Head of School, I always strongly encourage we listen to the Educational Leader, the Principal. That is important and he is the one on the ground that knows what is going on. That is just me saying that I would support Kapoula.

Miloli'i a special situation. We could create a special program at Miloli'i, have a special satellite. Hipu'u should present something at the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kaimi: especially this year, we had more people coming and more focus, its always changing but 8 years into the on line program has been a learning process, trying to work with all the changes, sometimes it is more difficult having a canned program. Donna: Zoom with her and she has systems that she could offer. She understands what works and what does not work. Kapoula: we have gone through changes, if it is different that we can do different and put in place, for student success. I don't feel good about the product we put out. It is painful. Kaimi: thank you. Susie: The Miloli'i community center is almost finished which will be compliant for a site for hybrid learning. Kenneth: last 4-5 years I have been part of a National Committee; developing on -line and hybrid in my field. What they look at is that not every student is an online student. testing part. face to face, first course, then synchronous methods Once a week, then have drops offs. success rate has to be on par with the subtend that come in. you need find different kinds of models that will be able to handle. Myron b Thompson those are home schoolers, you need to get the community and parents, put kuleana on them. Parents need to make it happen. We need the buy in from parents. Train the parents in the system when you build the system.

Kaimi: hard to train parents :

Ku: lets continue to think and pule and talk, have zoom with Donna, then put on the agenda for September but hold off formally until October if we need to make the best decision. Get some data, and mana'o.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Academic:**

We would like to welcome our new Academic Committee Chairman, Dr. David Sing. We just reviewed our discussion that Academic Committee had which were predominately around high school.

### **Finance/ Org**

Short and long term facilities needs. Please see the report provided pertaining to the short term needs and steps occurring.

Nani Mau: All land Special Use permit requirements were meet but there is a county change in use that was never done when Connections was there. We are working closely with the building department, fire department etc. as the whole building has to be brought to code. We are also working with the County R & D for the short and long term funding. Our goal is to have the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy by Nov 29.

Long Term Needs: Again, we are working closely with the County Disaster Recovery Funding in order to secure a long-term facility for us. Ku has attended several meetings with Susie Ku: we are fortunate have the county trying hard on our behalf. One thing that is really important and would help us is for as many people possible fill out the survey for community disaster recovery on the county website which takes about 10 minutes to complete. The results of this

survey will be an important part of the County determining the Disaster Recovery funding priorities.

Kenneth: Kanaeokana can help to promote this survey and they have a team that can develop a mobile app cultural. We need to be the leaders of the paradigm as we have the strength, and cultural capacity, and can develop these things on line, look at future planning.

Kenneth: Perhaps we should create a program developmental team for establishing new models. We can utilize grants to support this work, and ensure the school mission/vision and our strength are developed and to make sure its mission aligned hybrid/online work.

Ku: We are working to design a program that would be hybrid. Facilitating and integrating with students that are there, at least part of the time. EA Ecoversity is exactly what Kenneth is talking about. We will offer online courses with places that people can go to. 15-25 plus. Hands-n, our kupuna taught that way. We are developing a course called "Mind, Brain and Na'au.

Kenneth: exactly what I have been doing, as we are working in a system that doesn't work. How do we make that work? I have created a program that is "in reach". Community members and organizations come in and are giving purpose to why they exist the "inside" head heart hands. thinking, feel, action. You must have a passion to do it, or it doesn't get done.

Ku: relation, relevance, responsible, rigor. = kuleana. DOE start with rigor. Ku: finding humor is important. We are all moving in the right direction. .

Ku: if everyone can look at the GB meeting dates. We have a WASC self- study meeting on mission and vision on August 22nd: Natalie will meet with the board and then all staff in the afternoon.

Susie: a reminder that your binders all here. Kenneth asked if we can have the binders electronically.

Ku: calendar, committee meeting dates Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 13<sup>th</sup>

We would like to propose a one -hour board meeting after the September 11<sup>th</sup> and October meetings.

Donna: There is a board training on Sept16th Brian Carpenter will train on every Island and in Hilo. Susie: Donna please re forward the training information.

Ku: Wants to provide a discloser under the announcement section; concerns is the online program not having enough Hawaiian. Ku- a- Kanaka is developing an online Hawaiian online `ike Hawai'i and`olelo program. It is not dependent on age. We want to have the discussion to inquire with the board if is ok for the school or the non-profit to contract Ku-A-Kanaka for these services starting with a1 semester pilot. Ku went over the program items. because she is the chair and CEO it needs to be transparent. It would not be provided by Ku, it would be one of her employees. David: suggest that we run this through the Ethics group to get an official opinion. This way we can be assured that there is no issue. Susie will contact the AG for this and report back to the Board.

Ku: When we speak with AG then we can put on agenda if that is needed.

Ku: What needs to be on the Agenda for the next meeting? We had the hs closure discussion and this needs to remain on the Agenda, are there any other items?

Ku: Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.