

August Special Board Meeting - 2025 Minutes

Shanel Valley Academy

8/5/2025 5:30 PMPDT

@ Add Zoom Link

Attendance

Present:

Members: Amy Frost, Bessie Glossenger, Melissa Kendall, Noshie Merlin, Melea Meyer

I. Land Acknowledgment and Moment of Silence

Vision & Mission

Shanèl Valley Academy is a culturally responsive, community school where all students are valued and supported. SVA students will be prepared to lead and successfully participate in our rapidly changing multicultural society, they will contribute to the community with creative solutions and a resilient, culturally competent and collaborative mindset. **Board of Directors**

In Solidarity

We of this Academy, named after the Principal Local Indigenous Village of Shanél, acknowledge with honor the Shóqowa and Hopland People on whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands we work, educate and learn and whose historical and spiritual relationship with these lands continues to this day and beyond.

II. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:35

III. Roll Call

All members of the board present

IV. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda, was made by Noshie Merlin, seconded by Melea Meyer

Motion:

Agenda outlines the background info and need for preschool schedule change

Motion moved by Noshie Merlin and motion seconded by Melea Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment & Announcements on Non Agenda Items

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda. Although the Board of Directors may briefly respond to statements or questions, under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Individual public comments are limited to 3 minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupt the Board meeting.

Mendocino County Early Learning Director Kristin Hills joined us today to share current updates on preschool funding and available slots in the county. Given the TK expansion she shared some creative solutions that will allow sites in the counties to retain staffing and access for families in need of low and no-cost childcare.

Currently our preschool program includes the following program designations

7:30-11am - State preschool (Title 5 CSPP)

11am-1:10 - Licensed preschool program (Title 22)

1:10-5:30pm - TK ELO-P program (open to all students enrolled in preschool and/ or TK) (Title 22 & Title 5)

Despite these three separate programs, the preschool day for some students will operate as one comprehensive program. For current TK students they will have a shorter instructional day (while still meeting instructional minutes for Tk students). This is more developmentally appropriate for our youngest learners and will allow us to meet the needs of our local families who have been asking for a full day program

VI. Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration of Expanded Preschool Hours and Adjustment of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Instructional Schedule

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: As part of Shanél Valley Academy's ongoing effort to meet the needs of our youngest learners and support family schedules, the leadership team is proposing changes to the early learning program structure:

Preschool Expansion Proposal: The proposed expansion would extend preschool hours to better serve working families and support full-day early learning opportunities. Extended hours would also support smoother transitions into TK and Kindergarten and help increase enrollment appeal. Proposed expanded hours may range from 8:00 AM–3:00 PM to 8:00 AM–5:30 PM.

TK Schedule Adjustment Proposal: Based on developmental readiness and feedback from staff and families, it is proposed that the TK instructional day be reduced from a full-day schedule 8:00 AM–2:10 PM to a shortened instructional day 8:00 AM–1:10 PM). This adjustment aims to.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board discuss and consider approval of the following:

1. Expansion of the daily schedule for the State Preschool Program.
2. Reduction of the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) instructional day to better align with student developmental needs, staffing ratios, and staffing needs.

Given the fact that there are many moving parts regarding staffing and licensing approval for our plan, the Board decided to establish an early learning ad hoc committee to establish the maximal preschool schedule to meet the needs of students and families.

Motion:

Motion to shorten the TK instructional day from 8:00am-2:10pm to 8:00am 1:10pm

Motion moved by Melea Meyer and motion seconded by Bessie Glossenger. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

Motion to establish an Ad Hoc committee made up of Amy Frost Bessie Glossenger, Lucia Vazquez and Kristin Hills to establish the preschool schedule and staffing to best meet the needs of our families.

Motion moved by Bessie Glossenger and motion seconded by Noshie Merlin. Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

Motion to give conditional approval to the Ad Hoc committee for the preschool expansion and to incorporate the TK ELO-P program as allowable.

Motion moved by Melea Meyer and motion seconded by Noshie Merlin. Motion Passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comment Regarding Closed Session Items

No public comment on closed session items.

VIII. Closed Session

The Board entered into closed session at 7:16pm

A. Public Employee Employment: Certificated position

B. Public Employee Employment: Classified position

IX. Introductory Items

No public comment, no members of the public present coming out of closed session.

A. Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:55 pm

B. Report Out from Closed Session

A Motion to reduce a certificated staff salary by 12.5% based on the change to the TK instructional day schedule and staff request for reduced hours. Motion was made by Board member Merlin, seconded by board member Glossenger and approved unanimously. Motion to approve a 30-day continuation of health benefits for a certificated employee contingent upon completion of credentialing requirements by September 30. The motion was made by Board member Glossenger, seconded by Meyer and passed unanimously. Motion to extend classified leave based on employee request and Physician's recommendation passed unanimously. The motion was made by Board member Meyer and seconded by Member Merlin.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:56pm

