

Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School  
Governing Board  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 4:00 PM  
Lokahi Room – Kanu o ka 'Āina

**Vision** - As a community based learning 'ohana, Kanu is steadfast in cultivating compassionate, empowered, highly competent learners of all ages, grounded in Native Hawaiian culture and language.

**Mission** - Kanu's mission is to kulia i ka nu'u, or strive for the highest. A philosophy of excellence guides Kanu as we collectively evaluate a quality, culturally driven, intergenerational Hawaiian model of education with Aloha.

**Call to Order / Determine** Quorum - Meeting called to order by Randy at 4:04 with quorum established

Attendance: WD Keomailani, Kim, Steve, Keala, Randy, John, Ali Ann

Zoom Attendance: Mike, Mana, Kanani (Kanani left at 5:00PM)

Absent: Naomi

Guests: Keomailani, Kanoa, Taffi

**Assignments**

Time-Keeper - Steve

Evaluator - Keomailani

**Pule and Welcome** – Nā 'Aumākua (led by Kanoa)

**Public Testimony on agenda items** - none

**Consent Agenda**

*Reports Distributed:*

1. Agenda of 12/12/23
2. Minutes of 11/14/23

A motion to approve the agenda of 12/12/23 and the minutes of 11/14/23 was made by Mike, seconded by Steve and approved unanimously.

**Financial Report and Acceptance**

*Reports Distributed:*

1. Revenue Report (Oct 2023)
2. Kalo Store Fund (Oct 2023)
3. Balance Sheet Summary (Oct 2023)
4. Year to Date Actual to Budget Detail (Oct 2023)
5. Cash Flow Statement (Sept/Oct 2023)
6. Vanguard Dashboard (11/30/23)

The finance committee meeting was held on Friday, 12/8/23

- The committee suggests that a ladder be established for the investment from 3 mos to 3 years
- The committee suggests that we give the committee the authority to make those purchases.

A motion was made by Mike to buy a series of treasury certificates with multiple maturity dates (a ladder) the longest not to exceed three years. The board delegates to the finance committee and the business office the authority to execute the necessary trades with Vanguard to make this happen. A second was made by Steve.

Discussion:

- This is a large amount of money being invested, therefore it is important for all board members to learn about what we are doing regarding the transactions rather than a small group.
- Can we get an explanation about why we are transitioning from interest bearing (Vanguard) to the T bill.
- The bond matured so it was put in a money market.

Aloha kekahi i kekahi – Kōkua aku kōkua mai – Mahalo i ka mea loa'a – Mālama i kou kuleana

- Interest rates may be going down so it may be better to have the money in longer durations instead of a money market.
- We now have a zero coupon bond (Vanguard). We are talking about doing the same thing but spreading the maturities out over three years because you can get better interest yield (a better discount rate). The risk is exactly the same except if you have to sell the certificate early there is a slight penalty.
- The risk of losing money is predicated on the projected cash flow requirements of the school.
- What the committee could do is identify the ladder amounts and then share this with all board members, so that all Board members can see what the committee is anticipating.
- The longer the maturity period, typically the higher the rate (or interest yield). Some short term rates are higher and this fluctuates. There is less risk to have a longer term.
- The committee is asking for discretion to decide the different amounts, ladders and durations maturities of the treasury bills. The discretion that we are giving to the Finance Committee is actually very limited.
- The finance committee is a subset of the board and everyone is welcomed to attend (the committee meetings) to learn more about the investment.
- The finance committee does not have the authority to sell a bond prematurely. This would require board approval.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Business Manager's Report**

*Reports Distributed:*

1. Business Update (Memo from T Wise dated 12/12/23)

Taf shared:

- We received the plans for the kitchen. The board has not seen the final plans.
- Taf was asked to send the Board members a synopsis on the design.
- The board needs to see updated numbers regarding the kitchen.
- The board needs to know the cost to operate the kitchen.
- The charter commission ED will be decided on Thursday (12/14/23).
- The internet provider issue continues. Sandwich Isles will not give permission to use their equipment.

### **Leadership Team Reports**

*Reports Distributed:*

1. Po'okumu Report Kekemapa 2023
2. Hunehune Kalo – Kekemapa 2023

School Wide Leadership Update

- Kanoa highlighted TSI-CU
  - There is a deficiency in the Middle School Sped category (school wide) 4 Ka 'Ohā and 9 campus identified students are underperforming. Did some of these students opt-out of testing? If we don't have an assessment, we can not measure the growth of the student. If there are accommodations in the student's plan but they don't test, it prohibits fully knowing if the accommodations help.
  - If we continue to be identified in this category, there could be more targeted support for the school from the state. This does not lead to school closure.
- Parent Square usage was shared

Kauhale Campus Report

- Develop a system of cultural reflection for students and staff.
- Festival of Lights

Ka 'Ohā Virtual Report

- Good meetings are happening with Ka 'Ohā kumu each week.
- Multi year curriculum cycle for middle school is being discussed
- Math committee has been asking questions about providing more parameters for Math curriculum in Ka 'Ohā

Discussion:

The Po'o kumu were asked how things are going since they have become responsible for both campus and on-line programs.

- Kanoa and Keomailani meet with the Ka 'Ohā kumu each Tuesday.
- Po'o are trying to meet the need of the Ka 'Ohā kumu but there are times that they need to address something in person on campus that takes time away from meeting a virtual need.
- There could have been a clearer designation of who staff reported to when Nicole was not there because Ka 'Ohā kumu consistently asked about the chain-of-command. Unclear messages came from different sources.

Aloha kekahi i kekahi – Kōkua aku kōkua mai – Mahalo i ka mea loa'a – Mālama i kou kuleana

We (the board) have heard about kumu at Ka 'Ohā not doing a lot of the teaching but just grading papers and students who are homeschooled by their parents. Can the Po'o Kumu chime in on this?

- In High School there are synchronous times of the day for learning depending on the class. Students are not going to get the same seat time as a student in a brick and mortar school. The program was not designed to log in from 8 to 3. The students are learning from kumu and from the community. Kumu spent time checking in with students.
- Elementary is very different. With young learners in Ka 'Ohā, part of the investment is that the parent is going to help their child learn. This is something that kumu constantly question. The number one question that Ka 'Ohā kumu asked was saying that they don't really know how to assess or grade the student because they are not really teaching them all of their lessons. This is more in elementary. The 'ohana are choosing the curriculum. They have three different choices 1. All 'ohana chosen curriculum, 2. Using part of the Kanu curriculum and part 'ohana curriculum, and 3. All Kanu curriculum. Some teachers appreciate this and others are challenged by this. In elementary school, it is 'ohana centered with the 'ohana as the kumu.

How do we have some control of what the Ka 'Ohā students are learning so that the curriculum throughout Kanu is aligned?

- Kumu show that their curriculum is mission and vision aligned.
- 'Ohana meetings could be where the curriculum is adjusted as needed.

If the kumu is not teaching and the 'ohana is teaching, what are the kumu doing?

- Kumu are observing the assignments and doing analysis.

There has been a shift to island based hui. Now siblings are in the same hui and doing island based huaka'i.

If the parents are choosing the curriculum, why aren't they doing a full home school program of their own?

- Kanu is buying the curriculum. This is a benefit to the 'ohana.

We need to be tracking the communication with parents about standardized testing. Some of the issues that we are addressing are tied to the students taking the standardized tests. Are we taking intentional steps to address this?

- Strategizing ways to share this information
- SSC is talking about the benefits of taking the test

Charters are getting penalized on their data. So can we contract with the parents that they must test? This requires more discussion.

### **Committees**

Academic Committee – no meeting

Finance Committee – 12/8/23,

Governance Committee 12/4/23

### **Standing Executive Session**

A motion was made by Steve, seconded by John and approved unanimously to enter executive session to discuss personnel and/or legal matters.

A motion to exit the executive session was made by Randy, seconded by John and approved unanimously.

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** - none

**Evaluator Comments** - We need to move through the written reports a bit quicker.

### **Closing pule / mana'o - Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve seconded by John and approved unanimously.

**Next Meeting Date:** January 9, 2024 - 4PM

### **Recap of motions:**

A motion to approve the agenda of 12/12/23 and the minutes of 11/14/23 was made by Mike, seconded by Steve and approved unanimously.

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Submitted by:

WD Keōmailani Case  
Secretary  
Kanu Governing Board