Meeting Date: December 15, 2015

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Amrein, Vice Chairman

Charisa Martin, Parent Representative

John Keicher, Treasurer

Kim Rivers, Director

Lisa Klein, Director

Peter Bonaccorsi, Director

Tom Tyler, Secretary

Absent:

Bill Spinelli, Chairman

Debbie Christianson, Director

Attending Gate City Staff:

Karin Cevasco (School Director)

Lisa Duffy (1st Grade Teacher)

Amy Savoie (Kindergarten Teacher)

Dr. Jill Kane (Curriculum Coordinator)

Attending Public:

Sarah Hall

Daniele Preston

Janelle Balestri

6:53 PM: Meeting Called to Order by Bob Amrein.

**Quorum**: 7 of 9 voting board members were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Public Comments

Janelle Balestri (Attending Public) voiced the following opinions:

* Lyrics to the songs at the Winter Concert were inappropriate to have kids learn the words to and be exposed to repeatedly in a public school setting, notably *We Will Rock You* and more concerning, *Stitches*.

Sarah Hall (Attending Public) voiced the following opinions:

* The Winter Concert resulted in positive improvement in her child, and that music program was run better in some ways.

7:08 PM

MOTION (Keicher/Klein): Motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed without objection.

7:09 PM

Treasurers Report

John Keicher (Treasurer) discussed the report, noting that actual expenses are tracking well to the budget thus far.

7:15 PM

MOTION (Tyler/Martin): Motion to approve the financial report as written. Motion passed without objection.

Old Business

1. Update School Web Site and Calendar

Task completed. The calendar is live.

2. Campaign for Parental Donations

Tabled until next meeting.

3. Strategic Planning Committee

The board discussed the draft of the strategic plan.

Lisa Klein (Curriculum Chair) suggested that:

Item 3 (study of Arts Enrichment) should be deferred from 1 to 3 year goals, due to priorities, resource constraints, budget dependencies, etc.

7:41 PM

MOTION (Bonaccorsi /Tyler): Motion to schedule a special meeting to discuss the sole topic of the strategic plan. Motion passed without objection.

Further discussion on the strategic plan was tabled.

5. Fund Raising Activities Policy

MOTION (Tyler/ Bonaccorsi): Motion to approve the draft Fund Raising Activities Policy as written. Motion passed without objection after discussion.

7. Field Trip Policy

MOTION (Klein/Rivers): Motion to approve the draft Field Trip Policy as amended in the meeting. Motion passed without objection after discussion.

Agenda items 4 (Waiting List Policy) and 6 (Open Enrollment Policy) were tabled until the next meeting.

8. Policy Making Policy

MOTION (Rivers/Martin): Motion to approve the draft Policy Making Policy as amended in the meeting. Motion passed without objection after discussion.

Update from Friends of GCCSA

Charisa Martin (Director) gave a brief overview of the activities of the Friends committee. [Inc: EDITME-GetMinutesFromCharisa]

8:51 PM

Curriculum Committee Report

Lisa Klein (Director) gave a brief overview of the activities of the Curriculum Committee. [Inc: EDITME-GetMinutesFromLisa]

8:58 PM

Director’s Report

Karin Cevasco (School Director) provide the Director’s report. A few highlights:

* The Bullying Policy needs work. Karin required the board consider updating the policy, especially in the area of specifying discipline.
* Enrollment efforts have been effective, thanks in large part to Sarah Hall’s work processing the enrollment waiting list. Karin and several members of the board thanked Sarah for her efforts.

9:16 PM

New Business

Property Tax Abatement (added to agenda)

Bob Amerin (Vice President) discussed the property tax abasement. The school has an opportunity to reduce the property tax due in June 2016 by approximately 90%. The deadline is April 15.

Secretary Operations

This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

9:23 PM

MOTION (Bonaccorsi/Rivers): Motion to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 ii (a) personnel. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

MOTION (Bonaccorsi/Martin): Motion to accept the resignation of Tammy Conroy, with regrets. Motion passed without objections.

9:38 PM

MOTION (Bonaccorsi/Martin): Motion to exit non-public session.

9:38 PM

MOTION (Bonaccorsi /Klein): Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.