

Gate City Charter School for the Arts

Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 20, 2015

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Time: 6:45 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

6:45 PM: Meeting Called to Order

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Amerin, Vice Chairman

Bill Spinelli, Chairman

Charisa Martin, Parent Representative

Debbie Christianson, Director

Kim Rivers, Director

John Keicher, Treasurer

Tom Tyler, Secretary

Absent:

Lisa Klein, Director

Peter Bonaccorsi, Director

Attending Gate City Staff:

Karin Cevasco (School Director)

Tammy Conroy (Business Manager)

Attending Public:

Sarah Hall

Daniele Preston

Quorum: 6 of 8 voting board members were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

The meeting started with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session for about 5 minutes to vote acceptance of Tom Tyler as secretary. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Public members indicated they had no comments, and were attending for observation.

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The board entered Executive Session to vote on acceptance of Tom Tyler to the position of Secretary. The board accepted.

7:12 PM

MOTION (John/Bill): We approve the minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting. Motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Keicher delivered the Treasures Report, summarizing the current budget situation as being on a "shoestring budget," but above water.

It was noted that a more detailed budget review is done on a quarterly basis.

Old Business

It was stressed that we need everyone on the board to recruit to fill open board positions.

Karin Cevasco nominated Kathy Hersh for the Arty Award.

MOTION (Bob/Debbie): The board designates Kathy Hersh to receive the Arty Award. Motion passed without objection.

City Arts Nashua indicated to Karin Cevasco that they want to plan an ice cream social event with the school. It was discussed that the Arty Award could be presented at that event. The Winter Concert was suggested as another venue for presenting the award.

MOTION (John/Kim): We shall acquire an Arty Award Plaque. Motion passed without objection.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan Committee had their first meeting last Friday, October 16. Bob, Bill, and John were able to attend. There was a "forest level" review of 1, 3, and 5 year plans. This should be available to presented by the November or December Board of Trustees meeting.

Update from Friends of GCCSA

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The formal Minutes of the Friends of GCCSA meeting were provided, and Charisa provided a verbal overview.

Sarah Hall noted that \$2,870 has been raised so far for Paint Your Way 5K. The number of companies willing to sponsor has doubled since last year, and some returning sponsors have doubled or more than doubled their contributions this year.

Debbie suggested the possibility of Parents Night Out event. The idea was shelved until logistics (such as liability) could be looked at.

The full minutes of the meeting are available.

Update from the Curriculum Committee

Kim Rivers provided a verbal overview of the Curriculum Committee.

Regarding Math, Teachers are doing well with the Eureka Math program, but could use some additional professional support. There are a variety of resources including free webinars. Time needs to be allocated for teachers to review resources.

iPad usage is up, and the technology is being used and integrated more into the classroom.

Treasurer John noted that the preliminary budget for Curriculum Committee could benefit from clarity in terms of when expenses would be incurred, and stressed the need to align the Curriculum Committee's budget with the main budget.

Director's Report

Karin presented a draft **Fund Raising Activities Policy** to be discussed at the next Board of Trustees meeting:

All fund raising activities involving the student body and/or teaching staff must be approved by the Director.

Contributions shall be on a voluntary basis.

This is intended to include activities in which the students and/or staff are involved in fund raising directly.

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Karin presented a written draft **Field Trip Policy** to be discussed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Karin presented a draft **Waiting List Policy** (DRAFT 151019) to be discussed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Karin presented a draft **Open Enrollment Policy** (DRAFT 151020) to be discussed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Karin presented the SBAC Preliminary Results using visual presentation aids.

The **SBAC** (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) is the new mandatory standardized test given in the state of NH, a part of Common Core. As a school that receives public funding, the school is required to administer the test. Parents are not allowed to opt out of the test (though if a student is absent during testing, the test does not need to be rescheduled).

Karin noted that errors were made in administering the SBAC for Grade 4 and Grade 6; so results were not available for those grade levels. Multiple schools had made the same technical error, and so the state, having received similar feedback for multiple SBAC program, has indicated it will enhance the program to eliminate that opportunity for user error next year.

The results were characterized overall as expected and in line with state results.

The written Top Six Key Messages of SBAC were presented.

NECAP will continue to be used for Science until an SBAC program is available for Science.

Daniele Preston questioned whether our mix of grade levels (e.g. 3-4 grades mixed) might have an impact on test results. Karin indicated she did not expect there to be any correlation.

Open Board Discussion

Debbie asked for our direction relative to Campaign for Parental Donations. Discussion ensued, including the option of donating money vs. volunteer hours. It was referred to a future meeting for more discussion and research into what other schools do.

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Bob discussed the opiate crisis and Narcan treatment packets (to treat opiate overdose). There was a notion that each school should have a treatment kit available. Bob posed the question of whether we might be remiss (or even liable) for not having such measures in place. Karin added that we might also contemplate such things as having a defibrillator.

Karin noted that it would be great to have a school nurse.

Daniele Preston mentioned that her husband would be willing to present information about Narcan, overdose rates, CPR training, etc. Karin noted that staff presently have CPR training.

Karin discussed a free and reduced lunch assistance program. We are awaiting confirmation from a CPA as to whether funds can be used.

Sarah Hall discussed the upcoming Paint Your Way to 5K.

Next Meeting: **November 17, 2015.**

9:12 PM

MOTION (John/Tom): Motion to adjourn.

Motion passed without objection.