

Gate City Charter School for the Arts

Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:

“The mission of the GCCSA is to use an arts integrated curriculum ... to produce graduates who excel in both academics and the arts and have the knowledge, creativity and inquisitive nature that foster a life-long love of learning”

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Time: 7:06 PM

Location: Remote Meeting using Google Meetings, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Neil Mahoney (Parent Rep)

Jenny Hitzeman

Absent Board Members:

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Jenny Hitzeman

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Suzanne Wheeler

Astrid Alvarado

Jennifer Blanchette

Attending Public:

Eric Charest

Public Comments/Public Matters

Approval of Minutes from September 2020

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to accept the September minutes was accepted unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from October 2020

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to accept the October minutes was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney. Blaze Pizza Fundraiser raised \$75. The Boo Thru was a huge hit and will be added to the budget next year, it brought in \$112 profit. The Fall Book Fair was not very successful, and hopefully the Spring Book Fair can utilize the inside.

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Curriculum Committee- Jennifer Blanchette-see directors report

H/R Policy Committee-Jenny Hitzeman-Maternity/paternity policy is still awaiting info from finance committee

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault- The first meeting was held on remotely November 12, we had more than Astrid and me in attendance. Paige Duval, Lynn Rae, Jennifer Blanchette, and Mandy Darah came to the meeting with a lot of ideas. Presently we are looking into creating an art gallery/ auction in the Spring as well as a poetry reading outside.

Grants Committee- See Curriculum Director report

Facilities Committee- Eric Charest- Eric fixed a speaker. PTO donated a ring doorbell to the school. HVAC is on our floor and pulls in fresh air.

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to accept the committee meeting reports was accepted unanimously.

Finance Committee Meeting

Working with Counting House to finish the audit for 2018 and 2019.

MOTION (Neil Mahoney/Sarah Thibeault) Motion to accept minutes of the Finance Committee dated was accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Returning to school 2020/2021- The task force is recommending a hybrid model of 1 day a week, 2-3 classes in the building at a time. There was discussion regarding the in-person day and whether it should be full day. A concern that continued to come up was the students who chose to stay remote and screen time, if the in-person day was full day. Also, mask policies and lunch policies were discussed for in-person days, concerning full day or half day. The task force should discuss a phased in plan with no set dates, and then send out a survey to parents. The task force should also have a timeline and color-coded chart/matrix stating where the school stands as on each phase of the model. This could be posted on the website for parents to view. Next Task Force meeting is November 30, 4:30pm.

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Budget Approval for 2020/2021 school year will be moved to the December meeting.

Maternity/Paternity policy should be ready to be voted on at the December meeting.

New Business

Charter Renewal-We will begin meeting after the New Year to start working on getting all our information together, subcommittees will be created to insure getting everything done in a timely matter. A date will be set at the December meeting.

Allocating Cares Act Funds- The school has \$30,000 that needs to be allocated by December 30, 2020 and \$30,000 that the school needs to allocate by June 2021. Discussion on keeping some funds for when the school decides to go in person, for extra cleaning supplies and deep cleaning and a part-time nurse.

Directors Report

Suzanne Wheeler-

Although November is a short month there has been a lot of business to attend to.

The administrators were anxious to hear what the commissioner would discuss concerning Thanksgiving and COVID-19, but without notice the meeting never took place.

I would like to request that we send a survey out to parents for additional information concerning a one-day hybrid return to school in January. Basically, it would just ask for a yes or no reply that with precautions in place (and we would be specific about what those are) would you send your student to school. I ran this by two principals and was told that is exactly what they are doing.

Our task force meetings discuss what would need to be done to open and it is a daunting task as many of the members have not been coming to the meetings. Therefore, looking at the COVID-19 data it would behoove us to have additional information to have ballpark number of parents who would send their students to school understanding that with more than one child they would need to commute more than one day a week.

November has included many meetings in addition to task force, commissioners meeting, nurses meeting, administrators meeting, teacher's meetings, and homeless liaison meetings.

We have lost a 1:1 educational assistant as the parent requested that the EA work with him in the building. As we are not allowing children in the building her request was denied and she asked her home district to send him to Compass where he could have a 1:1 but use Gate City curriculum and remain a Gate City student. The law states that if one child with an IEP is allowed education

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in the building then all IEP students would have to be allowed in also. The schools that are allowing this is for their intensive need students only.

Many days I have had two to three meetings with Manchester and Nashua to decide if compensatory services are justified. These are team meetings which include parents. Bedford will now be added as we have a student that has moved into that district.

I am working on the invoicing for the month in November. Lynn informed me today that Felicia has requested a new format for invoicing that I will need to look at with Lynn.

School pictures were taken today in a new way, using a tent outside with appointments made in advance.

I wish all of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Jennifer Blanchette-

Curriculum Acquired:

Touch Math K-8 RTI curriculum to be used in Special Education and Title 1 instruction. This will vertically align our intervention curriculum and provide data-proven instruction to improve math proficiency. This will be paid for through the Title 1A Grant, using \$5,193 of grant funds.

Artist-of-the-Month & Writer-of-the-Month:

1. Successful 2nd community meeting was held.
2. November will mark the renewed addition of Writer-of-the-Month

Title Grants:

Title IV A used in funding our guidance program has been approved in the amount of \$10,000.

Title 1:

1. Selected for an audit of our 2019-20 year.
2. Progress reports and data collection sheets designed

In Progress: Gathering data to begin Title 1 math

EL:

Joined a weekly PLC group run by state experts and practitioners to gain more insight and training concerning delivering EL services.

I-Ready Testing:

1. Testing was completed for grades K-5.

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2. Instructional I-Ready curriculum is being used grades K-5.

In Progress: Acquiring I-Ready Testing for middle school for mid-year assessments.

State Testing:

1. State interim testing took place in grades 4-8 in math and ELA beginning on November 2nd and ending yesterday.

In Progress: Evaluating data and completion rates

Report Cards:

1. Edited and adjusted for remote Trimester 1
2. Adjusted ELA/SS standards to Humanities
3. Due 9th for review

In Progress: training teachers

Re-Chartering Taskforce:

1. Surveyed teachers to evaluate interest in a re-chartering taskforce.
2. We have several teachers and staff interested.
3. Working to build a clear task list and plan.

Teacher Certification:

I am currently working with several teachers to develop plans for certification, alt certification and/or renewal.

Teacher PD:

1. TouchMath for Title 1/Special Education
2. Reading A-Z/Raz Kids free PD live meetings
3. State Testing TA Certification for teachers Grades 4-8

Teacher Evaluations/Sample lessons:

Teachers will be asked to submit a video of their remote teaching along with a lesson plan which includes:

1. Relevant Standards
2. Objective/Goal/Guiding Question
3. Instruction
4. Learning Activity/Arts Integration

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5. Check for understanding
6. Teacher reflection on the Lesson

Training and PD:

I have participated in training this month for the PBL, EL, Reading A-Z, Statewide and Title grants.

Academic Enrichment Groups:

These groups continue to thrive. The last in-person meetings will take place November 24th. They will move to remote until Christmas Break and then session 1 of electives will be done.

Astrid Alvarado

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) **Motion** to adjourn was accepted unanimously.

Next public meeting Thursday December 17, 2020, 7pm

Meeting adjourned 8:54pm