Meeting Date: January 28, 2016

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Bill Spinelli, Chairman

Bob Amrein, Vice Chairman

Charisa Martin, Parent Representative

Kim Rivers, Director

Lisa Klein, Director

Peter Bonaccorsi, Director

Absent:

John Keicher, Treasurer

Tom Tyler, Secretary

Debbie Christianson, Director

Attending Gate City Staff:

Karin Cevasco (School Director)

Dr. Jill Kane (Curriculum Coordinator)

Attending Public:

6:55 PM: Meeting Called to Order by Bob Amrein.

Quorum: 6 of 9 voting board members were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Public Comments

Dr. Kane voiced the following opinions:

When developing a strategic plan all stakeholders should be invited to give input and she encouraged the BOT to look for broad engagement (e.g., teachers, parents). She further stated the strategic plan should present a clear vision to strengthen GCCSA and to set clear goals vs a list of tasks.

From the professional staff (teachers and administration) as presented by Dr. Kane:

All professional staff are invested and care deeply about the school. They are focused on teaching and learning. As a team they generated four goals and the professional staff would like to work with a subcommittee from the board to outline the sub tasks.

Peter: Asked for clarification on the program and policies. Her furthered went on to ask about the meaning of “comprehension and vocabulary”. It was stated they were to be used in their broadest sense and just not literacy related.

Bob clarified that the preliminary goals were set up with the purpose of identifying other goals, to create timeframes and find other needs to create action plans to achieve goals. This (the draft of the strategic plan from the ad hoc committee) is a draft plan not a final product. Once the plan is identified and approved then the BOT will figure out the resources necessary and come up with a plan for each item.

Lisa inquired about the process of developing a strategic plan and what the overall goal of the meeting was.

Bob clarified: goal of tonight’s meeting was to complete the overall plan and timeline for the board to vote on the it

Peter asked for clarification on the one year timeline, was it the end of the 2016 school year?

Bob stated his idea was the end of the fiscal year after the plan was approved; June, 2017.

To further clarify, 2017, 2019 and 2021 were added respectively to the end of goal 1, 3 and 5.

Bill asked for additional ideas for the plan from the board.

Lisa stated a possible need for an overarching goal vs the action items under the headings of goal1, 3 and 5. Kim further stated the overarching goal would be accomplished by the tasks under it.

Bob stated the process from a business perspective.

Karin countered with asking what was the why behind #1 on the 3 year goal. Lisa also asked what category that would fall under (e.g., fiscal, governance, public relations).

Bob stated it was a little bit of all and explained his reasoning.

Dr. Kane suggested the board start from the 5 year goal and work backwards keeping in mind the ideas of governance, the mission of the school, finance/sustainability, and academic excellence.

Kim asked Peter about how strategic plans at schools where he as worked had been developed. He talked about three questions commonly asked: 1) Where are we now? 2) Where do we want to be and 3) How will we get there?

Charisa asked if #4 under the 5 year goal would also go under years 3 and 1 as well.

Lisa commented on Charisa’s point and stated the curriculum committee could look at developing an adoption cycle for curriculum.

Bill stated the board would go from year 5 and work on each item.

7:41 Board began reviewing the strategic plan from the ad hoc committee

Peter suggested language change for #1 under 5 year plan:

Shall receive a final plan from the permanent facility committee for a permanent home for GCCSA.

Dr. Kane offered a broader goal:

Determine the size, scope and timing and need of a new facility for GCCSA. Members agreed with this broader goal.

#2 under 5 year plan

changed to “Establish a financial endowment to ensure the sustainability of GCCSA”.

#3 under 5 year plan

Peter recommended it be move to year 3. Members agreed

#4 under 5 year plan

Peter suggested changing the wording “Assess the effectiveness of the curriculum of GCCSA”

Added “Assess the effectiveness of the GCCSA policy manual”

As part of the addition, “Finalize and review the updated policy manual of the GCCSA” was added to the year 3 goal.

#1 3 year goal

Karin talked about #1 and #2. She had concerns about them without having a feasibility study first.

Peter suggested “Determine the feasibility of amending the charter enrollment.”

It was asked if this would be moved to a 1 year goal. Lisa, Kim and Peter felt that was not enough time.

Language was changed to “establish the feasibility of expanding maximum enrollment”

8:44

#3 3 year goal

Peter suggested “receive an updated endowment plan from the community relations committee that ensures the sustainability of GCCSA”

Lisa asked about the audience of the plan. It was stated it was the parents. She further commented on the need for clarification for parents.

Bill moved # 4 under 3 year goal to a year 1 goal

#5 under 3 year goal:

“and enrollment expands per above 3 year goal item 1” was taken out

Under year 1 goals it was decided by the chairman to keep numbers 1 and 2. The chairman opted to strike #4. #6 remained the same

Discussion of #7 under year 1 yielded the decision to change the working.

Karin mentioned under the teacher goals that it coincides with #3 in the one year goals that it is not in the mission of the school to have an arts enrichment program outside the curriculum. She said it’s already integrated into the mission of the school

Lisa mentioned that with our curriculum the teachers are asking for a stronger grasp on how to integrate the arts existing within the curriculum

Bill is eliminating #3 from the one year goals. A vote was taken to approve #1 on the teacher input sheet as worded and it was unanimous.

On the teacher input Peter suggested #2 and #3 be place into the 2019 goal and #4 should be on 2017

Lisa said change “to improve the means” to “assess the social and emotional means”

Bob said that the elimination of Arts enrichment will come back to haunt the school. He dissents strongly that the arts enrichment should be stricken. He said he agrees however that arts integration should be in the curriculum. He wants to see a program developed to introduce kids to the arts.

9:09--meeting was adjourned