

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: October 17, 2019

Time: 7:16PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Neil Mahoney

Jack Balcom

Absent Board Members:

Jack Cullen (Vice Chair)

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Suzanne Wheeler

Betty Mulrey

Astrid Alvarado

Attending Public:

Public Comments/Public Matters

No public comment

Approval of Minutes from

7:0 MOTION (Jack/Neil) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting was accepted unanimously

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney

PTO meeting restaurant nights

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Facebook groups for committees. Dance was successful. Help with the 8th graders for class trip. Blaze Pizza \$72. Fall Festival, 5k and Holiday Spectacular. School Store is doing well, and the idea to make it its own entity was discussed

Curriculum Committee- Betty Mulrey

See Directors report

H/R Policy Committee- Jack Cullen

No meeting

PR and Community Relations Committee- Sarah Thibeault

We are under contract for our website with Kreate Co. for \$300/40 hrs., we will be updating the look and making it more cohesive. Looking into being part of the Merrimack Holiday Parade and making a float, waiting to discuss with Beth Ashton to see if she has interest in spearheading that. We are hoping to have an open mic night in March at either The Riverwalk café or Big Kahuna. Also, looking into having a poetry reading in November or December at Buckley's Bakery. Still waiting to hear back from Positive Street Art but their BOT approved collaborating with GCCSA. Astrid placed an ad in Parenting NH for November and January. October 19, GCCSA will have a booth at the Art Walk presented by City Arts Nashua.

Grants Committee- Jack Balcom

Looking for the results of the audit.

Facilities Committee-

Water damage in café and art room from the storm, waiting for it to dry out to replace the tiles.

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

Finance Committee Meeting

Felicia gave a review of the finance committee meeting minutes from October 12, 2019

Next meeting is November 15, 9AM

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

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Old Business

Teacher Liaison deferred to next meeting; recommendation is a non-voting member. Discussed adding Julia Watermen as teacher liaison. Teacher liaison would have to be recommended by the teachers.

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Jack Balcom) Provide a non-voting advisory position that would be available to a teacher of GCCSA unanimously.

Update on Strategic Planning Danielle still working on academic portion.

8th grade trip- Parent Info night on Monday Oct. 21. Need 20 paying to go on trip. 4 seats need to be filled. Options discussed are to fill the seats with older siblings or parents. Possibility to piggyback with a charter school.

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New Business

Committees- Discussion about the curriculum meeting following teacher meeting, so the teachers are present. 3rd Wednesday of month 2:30

Clubs discussed parent involvement needed. History club 5-8 D&D, and Dance class after holiday. Find out where the interest is for clubs, survey monkey? STEM Challenges?

Discussion of the tech curriculum and how to supplement Beth Ashton, and which direction the Tech Class should be going. ISTE Standards

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) motion to accept Jack Cullen resignation with regret accepted unanimously.

Recruiting new board members was discussed, reaching out to chamber of commerce of Nashua and Merrimack

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Directors Report

Suzanne Wheeler

3 new substitute teachers have been added to our nonexistent list from last month. One of the new subs is Mr. Mark Wilson, a retired math teacher who has moved to Nashua from Massachusetts. He has been amazing in the most challenging classrooms. We would like to offer math tutoring to students who are struggling, it would take place on Wednesday early dismissal 1:00-3:00 at a fee of \$10 for two hours. Mr. Wilson is very interested in this. The administrators need to discuss who and how to offer this additional support

Betty Mulrey

Our all-school “Artist of the Month” initiative has taken off! This month featured Pablo Picasso, and student processing of his work is displayed on the walls of the school. Last month featured van Gogh. All grades K-8 take part in this group initiative!

We are piloting Lexia PowerUp Literacy and Lexia Core 5 for our middle school. Lexia PowerUp helps educators simultaneously address gaps in fundamental literacy skills while helping students build the higher-order skills they need to comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and compare increasingly complex literary and informational texts. Blending online student-driven explicit instruction with offline teacher-delivered lessons and activities, PowerUp empowers secondary teachers to deliver the exact instruction each student needs to become a proficient reader. It (1) addresses the instructional needs of a wide range of reader profiles, (2) engages, challenges, and motivates students to take ownership of their learning, and (3) helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in content-area classes. Lexia Core 5 supports educators in providing differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities in grades K–5. It provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in areas of reading instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge, and providing teachers with the data and student-specific resources they need for individual or small-group instruction. It (1) engages and motivates students in a game-like environment, (2) provides progress-monitoring student data without a test, and (3) is accessible via iPad, Chromebook, or browser.

We have been focusing on diversifying our math instruction in order to reach our diverse range of learners. This is an on-going initiative which we hope will increase math learning and knowledge for all our students.

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We have completed i-Ready and Fountas & Pinnell assessments for our students. We are now determining which supports, interventions, and opportunities to give students based on these assessment results and other information.

Kindergarten and First Grade students have been screened for indicators of dyslexia, and these scores are in the process of being interpreted.

ELL testing has also been completed, and testing results are being evaluated.

Field trips are being planned! 4th and 8th grades are off to the Boston Museum of Science next Monday. Plans are also in progress for 5th grade to go to the NH Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn.

Astrid Alvarado

Healthcare Benefits: All information has been submitted to Anthem that was required.

Healthcare benefits were effective October 1st with the first payment being made this month.

DOE Report: The State has a preliminary report of the DOE-25 financial report that we received an extension for during the month of August. WE have sent out our Beginning of Year enrollment and Free and Reduced data is Batch verified and certified. We have completed Class and Staffing Form and Teacher Attainment & Average Salary surveys that were due this month. WE received Differentiated Aid and Kindergarten Grant funding from the state this month. I am still in the process of sifting and deciphering what this payment was regarding and how it was calculated.

Current Enrollment:

166 Students

3 students shadowing on Monday.

WE currently have an advertisement out on Facebook and will have an advertisement in Parenting NH's November issue for open enrollment.

Communication with Families: October newsletter was completed and submitted through Sycamore batch email to all families. Through the system we can verify which families have received the documents, opened them, and which emails are no longer active. Parten portal on Sycamore was opened this month and is being utilized. We are hoping to become as paperless as possible with the use of this new system. We are in the process of writing to families to explain Sycamore and its use as a school-based communication tool. We are in the process of updating and streamlining the way in which we communicate with families. We will be enrolling in Twilio which is cost effective to communicate with families via text message and capable of

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creating voice messages as well, as our current Remind messages have not been effective in communicating with all families.

Each month families can expect to receive:

- 1.Monthly school newsletter, the first Monday of the month.
- 2.Weekly reminder on Wednesdays via email of upcoming events and news that is not urgent
- 3.Urgent messages such as no school due to inclement weather, holiday, closing of lunch ordering will be done via Twilio which is link to our Sycamore system.

Building Use: Duke Eberle mother, Mandy Eberle, has asked if their Scouts troop could utilize the cafeteria on Sundays.

MOTION (Jack Balcom/Neil Mahoney) Motion to go into non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c) accepted unanimously

Roll call was taken

MOTION (Jack Balcom/Neil Mahoney) to come out of non-public was accepted unanimously

MOTION (Jack Balcom/Neil Mahoney) to seal the non-public minutes was accepted unanimously

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

Next public meeting November 21, 2019 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm