

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: August 19, 2021

Time: 7:05 PM

Location: Gate City Charter School for the Arts, 7 Henry Clay Rd, Merrimack, NH with remote option

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair) -remote

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)-remote

Rebecca Boutin-Remote

Neil Mahoney (Parent Rep)-remote

Grace Cavallo-Remote

Absent Board Members:

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Astrid Alvarado-remote

Jennifer Blanchette-remote

Attending Public: all remote

Adam Schumacher

Maritres Carrasco

Eric Charest (in person)

Amy Cooper

Bobbi Wright

Susi Paterson

Mandy Darah

Amanda McKenna

Catherine Ellison

Jennifer Clemmans

Keith McCrea

Lynn Rae

Sarah Marchand

Public Comments/Public Matters

Amanda McKenna asked if the school year would start out with a mask mandate for all students and staff in the school?

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Answer-yes as long as the Covid-19 Dashboard through New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is in the moderate to substantial transmission then masks will be required. Adam Schumacher asked if children with symptoms like runny nose would be sent home? Answer-yes, any symptoms of Covid-19 would be reason for a child to be sent home from school. This is to help keep transmission in school low and keep the school from going to remote learning. This guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Email from parent was read discussing a waiver for those parents who may not want their children to wear a mask, taking legal responsibility away from the school if their child contracts COVID-19. Discussion of the importance of keeping all students, teachers, and staff safe by universal mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing.

Email from a parent was read discussing concerns about medical exceptions for masks.

Approval of Minutes from June 2021 and July 2021 Meetings

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to approve the June 2021 Meeting Minutes and July 2021 Meeting Minutes was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney- The PTO decided to do a drive thru ice cream parade. There is a virtual PTO welcome breakfast on 9/1. Mascot winner will be announced at the first community meeting. Book fair will be held Sept. 13-17.

Curriculum Committee- Jennifer Blanchette-See Directors Report

H/R Policy Committee- -No Meeting

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault- The artist of the month calendar is almost finished, and we are still trying to fill ad space. We are looking into updating the website to be cleaner and easier to find information, Paige is working on a mockup website. Facebook-Myth buster Monday will start in September. We discussed starting a parent monthly challenge to get more involvement in the Artist of the Month. For the Scarecrow contest we will do a Chameleon to go along with our new mascot.

Grants Committee- No Meeting

Facilities Committee- Eric Charest- See Directors report

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

Finance Committee Meeting

Approved drafted audits

The insurance policies are being upgraded

Still in search of a Part-Time Accountant

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

Old Business

New Business

Safety Committee Recommendations from August 12 Meeting

Discussion of the CDC and NH DHHS guidelines. Definition of where to track low/moderate/substantial transmission rates will be through NH DHHS. Masking will be based on transmission rates. How often the data for transmission will be evaluated was discussed and was agreed upon 2 weeks. How long the transmission is low before masks are optional was also discussed. Alerting the school community about any changes to masking policy must be done at least 24 hours in advance in multiple communication avenues.

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to amend 2021/2022 Updated Mask Policy to include that any changes to the policy must be communicated within 24 hours through multiple avenues of communication was accepted unanimously.

Directors Report

Alma

- Families were given access to Alma on 8/11
- This switch has proven invaluable so far to our school. The interface is much easier to navigate and will be utilizing many of its features moving forward.

Facility Updates

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- Cubicle Solutions was able to move and enlarge the classrooms on 8/14. All classrooms that were
- Building maintenance was able to locate the smell that was present in the 4th/5th grade classroom. The smell was found in the PTO shower stalls. Items will need to be moved so that there is access to the drain to pour water/coffee down on occasion to lessen the smell.
- Lunch will be catered once again. Looking at the best way to have families order lunches for the school year
- Cleaning service quotes
- Carpets will be professionally cleaned on August 27th, 2021

Finances

- Approval of drafted audit
- Researching to update us
- Still seeking a Part Time Accountant

Projected Enrollment

Total: 166

Grade	Enrolled for Next Year
K	18
1	21
2	17
3	18
4	17
5	23
6	18
7	19
8	16

Remote School Preparation

- 100% of all families have gone to their meetings (Remote Education Open House & 1:1 with Erin)

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- Erin will be meeting with staff to discuss how to help them with remote education
- All students and families have signed their Remote School contracts

Curriculum

- Piloting EL Education in Humanities and 4th/5th classrooms. Curriculum is free to access online. Have been working on purchasing the books related to curricula
- Acquired Writers Workshop for K-8
- Purchased iReady Diagnostic & Instruction as well as Savvas curricula
- Purchased CatchBox to ease Remote education students' participation levels
- Professional Development days have been scheduled for August 25th and 26th

Electives

- Set to begin on the 20th of September
- Outside when possible or in open areas
- Remote options

Title Grants

- Final reports complete for Title I and Title II year 2020-21

Staffing Updates

- We lost our Special Educator and 4th/5th Math and Science educator this month.
 - Currently do not have viable applicants for position
 - Notified districts related to Special Education services, stating we may need to change the model in which we service our students
 - There are a few HR questions related to an applicant for 4th/5th Math & Science Educator, requesting to discuss this in non-public.
- Only 1 candidate for PT Accountant was looking for more hours than we can give at this time. Looking into utilizing our current bookkeeping services to help with reports to present at Finance and Board Meetings.

ESSER Funding Updates

- Successfully initiated reimbursement of funds for ESSR funding.
- Will continue to maintain this to keep as up to date as possible

Safety Committee

Held on 8/12 at 10:30AM to discuss the updated guidance from the

[Presentation](#)

[Minutes](#)

[Updated COVID Policies](#)

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MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to enter Nonpublic session RSA 91-A:3, II(a) Unanimously accepted

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to leave Nonpublic session RSA 91-A:3, II(a) Unanimously accepted

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Rebecca Boutin) Motion to made to seal the minutes Unanimously accepted

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

Next public meeting Tuesday September 21, 2021, 7pm

Meeting adjourned 10:01pm