

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 15

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Jack Cullen (Vice Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Neil Mahoney

Jack Balcom

Jenny Hitzeman

Bill Spinelli

Gene Kuzcewski

Absent Board Members:

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 April

MOTION (Jenny Hitzeman/Bill Cullen) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting was accepted unanimously

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Finance Committee Meeting

Bill gave a review of the finance committee meeting minutes from August 10, 2019 at 1:00PM

Next meeting is yet to determined Saturday in August/September

MOTION (Jenny Hitzeman/Jack Cullen) Motion to accept minutes of the Finance Committee dated was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney

Sarah discussed the upcoming PTO events-Ice Cream Social, PTO welcome breakfast, Great Closet Clean Out. PTO meetings will be held every second Tuesday of the month at 6:00PM in the school Cafeteria

Curriculum Committee- Gene Kuczewski and Betty Mulrey

Gene discussed the need to get up to date and acquainted with the curriculum and will be meeting with Betty and Astrid Monday August 26th at 1:00PM. He will also be discussing the strengths and weaknesses with the teachers.

H/R Policy Committee- Jack Cullen and Jenny Hitzeman

Meetings will be held every first Thursday of the month at 6:00PM. First order of business will be updating HR&Policy with each policy being approved by the board. The committee will reach out to Peter B and Rich Boardman for some previous updated policies.

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault

Meeting time to be determined. The committee has been in contact with Positive Street Art to possible collaborate. We put a half page ad in the NAAA Greeley Park Art Show.

Grants Committee- Jack Balcom

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Met August 1. The committee really wants to get a good jump on grants at the beginning of the year. Jack and Marcia are looking for more grants and need profiles for the directors and new BOT members. Next meeting will be held September 1, 1:00PM

Facilities Committee-

Discussion of the Directors (Astrid Alvarado) filling this committee

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

Old Business

Strategic Planning Meeting set for Thursday September 5, 7:00 PM

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New Business

The board discussed bringing on a teacher liaison as a non-voting member of the BOT, to help with policy and strategic planning. The discussion was tabled for now to look into by-law questions.

The board discussed getting more involved with other Nashua Charter Schools to form a Nashua Regional Charter School District for the purpose of unifying/addressing common concerns, purchases, teacher conferences, and interscholastic competition. Also, discussed attending an Alliance Charter School Meeting and becoming Nashua School Board members to take advantage of workshops and trainings

MOTION (Bill Balcom/Jenny Hitzeman) Motion to accept Bill Spinelli's letter of resignation with regret was accepted unanimously

Directors Report

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Suzanne Wheeler

All positions have been filled, and new hires are excited to start the year. Officer Bill Vandersyde has once again volunteered to participate on our Anti-Bullying task force. Attendance to a two day leadership conference at SNHU, with speakers all from the DOE, with many choices for workshops. P.D. week has been scheduled with all three directors taking part. P.E. will once again be held over at the YMCA.

Betty Mulrey

Welcome new teachers: Chelsea Bibeau, Middle School Science; Alicia Durand, Middle School Math; and Erin Weilgoszinski, Third Grade. Drama will be incorporated into curriculum and Wednesday programming. Currently, working on an arts-integrated writing curriculum for grades K-8. Teachers attended many different professional development conferences and workshops including, math, performance assessment and responsive classrooms. Math curriculum will continue to be Envision Math and Mystery Science will enhance our science curriculum. To improve accurate and informative assessment of students, the following actions will be taken: testing of all students earlier in the school year with I-Ready and Fountas & Pinnell assessment, to determine academic status and which students may need extra support. Address discrepancy between scores on NH state testing and i-Ready. 1. work to increase student knowledge and 2. work to increase student test-taking skills. Title classes were held in the summer as well as workshops in baking and art, planning to have more throughout the year.

Astrid Avarado

Healthcare Benefits- After reviewing the insurance quote from 2018 from Health Trust we found we were unable to utilize this offer because we only had one staff member who opted in and 75% was needed. A new quote from Healthcare Marketplace utilizing SHOP is being finalized after requiring information from the staff. If the school pursues this option, it can start as early as September 1. The accountability report due August 31st to the DOE is almost complete pending some questions being followed up with appropriate staff and board members. Enrollment with received proper documentation is 167, intended to enroll was 175, calls went out to families to ensure their intention is to enroll. The middle school team updated the technology policy to reflect challenges from last year as well as to be more inclusive of Middle School values and appropriateness. A goal for the school year would be to update our student handbook policies throughout the course of the school year. Our landlord has requested as of 8/14 to change the language of our lease contract regarding early termination conditions. Specifically, 4.ab.-"if Landlord is unable to provide Tenant with additional space which tenant requires" would result in the Tenant being able to terminate its lease at the end of the 5th year or 7th year. Astrid and Jack © will work together to draft an appropriate response.

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MOTION (Jenny/Jack C) Motion to go into non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (a)
accepted unanimously 9:22pm
Roll call was taken

MOTION (Jenny/Jack C) Motion to adjourn was accepted unanimously.

Next public meeting at 7pm September 19th

Meeting adjourned 10:00 pm