

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: July 16, 2020

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Neil Mahoney (Parent Rep)

Jenny Hitzeman

Absent Board Members:

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Suzanne Wheeler

Astrid Alvarado

Jennifer Blanchette

Attending Public:

Mandy Darah

Megan Philbrook

Nicole Riddell

Eric Charest

Public Comments/Public Matters

No public comment

Approval of Minutes from June 2020

MOTION (Neil Mahoney/Sarah Thibeault) Motion to accept minutes at July 2020 Meeting accepted unanimously

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Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney. No meeting in July

Curriculum Committee

H/R Policy Committee-

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault-No meeting

Grants Committee- Jack Balcom No meeting

Facilities Committee- Eric Charest-

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/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 July.

The audit is almost done for 2018 but we will need new auditors for 2019. 2019 taxes have been filed and accepted.

Next meeting is TBD

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

Old Business

Brady Sullivan-The owner of Innovation Way has decided to not pursue anymore negotiations with GCCSA, however a building at 410 Amherst St in Nashua is available.

Returning to School 2020/2021- The Task Force discussed two different models at the last meeting.

Hybrid model A/B groups M/T, TH/F W remote learning and deep clean the school.

-masks required when traveling throughout the school

-temps before school

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-lunch and specials in classroom

-mild symptoms stay home

Phased reopening

Remote learning for all students, while offering in person outings and project-based learning.

-accessed every 4 weeks

-if safe start hybrid model

-access every 4 weeks

Remote learning will be available for all families

The task force also discussed the possibility of looping, which means the teachers will stay with their students from last year and teach their grade for the current school year. Also starting the school year, a bit later. A survey for families will be emailed tonight to get an idea of which model they feel most comfortable with. The surveys will be due before the next task force meeting July 22.

The board will hold a special meeting July 24 at 5pm to vote on which school reopening model to start the school year with.

MOTION (Jenny Hitzeman/Neil Mahoney) to change the first day of school to Wednesday September 9, 2020 was accepted unanimously

New Business

Grants for upcoming school year- Discussion on how to get more grants and researching grants will be discussed at August 2020 meeting.

Update to maternity/paternity policy is currently being updated by Jenny Hitzeman. Finance committee will have to review the financials before a decision can be made as to how long maternity/paternity leave can pay 80% of salary.

Astrid Alvarado and Erin W will be grandfathered in with 6 weeks at 80% of salary.

Directors Report

Suzanne Wheeler-

In July we have held 2 task force meetings about how to return to school. I have obtained Merrimack School Districts Power Point presentation on their return and sent it to Danielle as well as my co directors.

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I have met with a parent and student over a personal issue and this is being handled by the Nashua Police Department. The mother was grateful for the meeting. The commissioner has presented 3 times this month and I was able to ask a question in the chat room. It is obvious that there is no way to accommodate all ideas and some are more appropriate for certain regions while others are not. The DOE charter school leaders' meetings led by Jane Waterhouse has met twice this month with Jane stating that these will be lessening as we come to a decision concerning reopening. The DOE special education meeting has been held once this month. The interview committee comprised of two teachers, administration, and the Board of Trustees interviewed a candidate for Curriculum Director, and I am pleased to say that it was very professional and thorough. Mrs. Jennifer Blanchette was named the new Director of Curriculum and we very much look forward to working with her. I have interviewed three candidates for substitute teachers, educational assistants, and a teacher. I was impressed with all of them. As with all things the unknown can cause anxiety and I strongly feel that we need to make a decision on how we intend to open our school so that we can have the time we need for professional development and be the very best we can be.

Astrid Alvarado

Re-entry for Fall Meetings

Changes in Staff

As many of you know, Michaelene submitted her resignation on June 30th of last month. I have been working closely with Lynn to delegate current responsibilities in order to ensure there will be as minimal disruption to our end of year. Lynn has accepted to take on more responsibilities that were left from this vacant position. We have decided that we will be looking at hiring the addition of a Data Management and Social Media Coordinator. This position will encompass the DOE reports that need to be completed according to the schedule, enrollment for new and prospective students, and posting to our social media accounts to help increase our social media presence.

Sycamore

We will be participating in a series of several online workshops and tutorials to help administration utilize Sycamore to the best of its ability. We will be learning how to set-up the account for parent portal(s), cafeteria usage, etc. This will prove to be an invaluable tool moving forward.

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2020-2021 Enrollment

Suzanne has graciously offered to contact our new families to ensure they would like to continue to be enrolled at Gate City Charter School. This will give us a better idea of where the holes are and which classrooms we need to continue to pursue filling.

DOE Reporting

Student Safety Report has been filed.

Indoor Air Quality will be completed by the end of month.

Building Usage

Everything is set up with the YMCA to utilize our space when it is raining.

I met with Michael Gratton on behalf of Civil Air Patrol to discuss the potential use of our building for their regularly scheduled meetings. They have their own insurance policy for their program.

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to go into non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (a) accepted unanimously

Roll call was taken

MOTION (Jenny Hitzeman/Neil Mahoney) **Motion** to adjourn was accepted unanimously.

Next public meeting at August 20, 2020 7pm

Meeting adjourned 9:22 pm