

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: September 19, 2019

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Neil Mahoney

Jack Balcom

Absent Board Members:

Jack Cullen (Vice Chair)

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 (Jack B/Felicia) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting was accepted unanimously

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"

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney

The 5k was discussed and it was announced that is to become a non-timed event to help entice more non running families and make the fun run/walk be more art forward. The "Be Your Own Hero dance is being held Friday September 27, 6-8pm and is a all grade family dance.

Destination Imagination did a quick overview presentation at the August PTO meeting and has been well received by parents and teachers. The PTO will be working with the Directors to figure out a time that DI can come in to do a Parent Info Night. The next PTO meeting will be held October 8th 6pm at the school's cafeteria,

Curriculum Committee- Betty Mulrey

Our "Artist of the Month" project has been well-received. The whole school has delved into van Gogh and his work. Student assessments have started early to maximize support and extension services. Fountas & Pinnell testing in grades 1-4 is almost finished. These test results are used to inform Title support. Grades K and 1 will receive DIBELS testing in order to screen for dyslexia indicators. ELL assessment is set for the next two weeks. i-Ready assessment in Reading and Math is scheduled for next week. Teachers participated in an i-Ready webinar, "Getting Good Data with i-Ready Diagnostics," with focus on ways to give students incentive to do their best on these assessments, and to be comfortable taking them. Our curriculum Scope and Sequence for 2019- 2020 is in progress. Licenses have been renewed for all current curriculum.

H/R Policy Committee- Jack Cullen

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault

We have been in contact with someone for updating our website, looking forward to a meeting, to find out prices and timeline. A scarecrow was created for the Downtown Nashua Scarecrow contest. The kids picked a superhero crow and the staff will create it. Looking into other local events in Nashua and Merrimack. The GCCSA Facebook page is almost at 1000 likes. We are waiting to hear back from the YMCA to see if we can still place our sign up. Astrid is looking into different magazines to place ads about the school and what grades are still accepting students.

Grants Committee- Jack Balcom

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”

No meeting was held but looking into the federal grant for Charter Schools

Facilities Committee-

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

Finance Committee Meeting

Felicia gave a review of the finance committee meeting minutes from September 14, 2019

Next meeting is October 12, 2019

MOTION (Jack/Neil) Motion to accept minutes of the Finance Committee dated September 14, 2019

Old Business

Teacher Liaison was discussed. We do have a few teachers interested. Amendments would need to be made to the Bylaws. Voting is tabled until next meeting.

Danielle and Astrid are working on updating our strategic planning and another meeting will take. Place TBD.

New Business

MOTION (Felicia/Neil) Motion to accept with regret Jenny Hitzeman resignation was accepted unanimously.

MOTION (Felicia/Neil) Motion to accept with regret Gene Kuzcewski resignation was accepted unanimously.

This year 8th grade trip was discussed. The students are hoping to go to New York City for 3 days 2 nights. Best prices were through EF tours, included is guide tours of The Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, 9-11 memorial, as well as, a Broadway show. Breakfast and dinner, and room and board would also be included. The board discussed options for lowering the per student price, including piggybacking with another charters school.

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"

Directors Report

Suzanne Wheeler

Ongoing challenges working to transport students to Birch Hill Elementary School and Pennichuck Middle School. Students are unhappy with missing electives in particular on Wednesdays. Additionally, This is an added strain on the office to locate students, track their departures and arrivals, and check for any changes that day. There have been multiple meetings with some of the case managers at both schools and they are challenged with the schedule as well. A discussion of a school nurse is needed soon. Dispensing medication is timely and needs to be accurately recorded, as well as locating middle school students and keeping a pill count to notify parents when the medication is low.

Betty Mulrey

Betty Mulrey gave handouts to all teachers about child development and common developmental characteristics for students in grades K-8. These handouts will be available for families at tonight's Parent Information Night. The handouts come from Responsive Classroom. They are derived from "Yardsticks" by Chip Woods. Developmental areas covered include physical development, social and emotional development, and academic development. At the Charter School meeting in Concord last Tuesday, we were given a free "Tools for Schools" Action Kit for studying indoor air quality in science class. GCCSA needs substitute teachers, and we are in the process of interviewing potential substitutes. Art and Music are planning integrated curriculum together. Gym class is working well, and the instructors at the YMCA are great. "Choose Love," our social emotional curriculum, has been launched and has been well-received by both students and staff.

.

Astrid Avarado

Healthcare Benefits: We are currently able to provide health insurance to 4 of our employees utilizing the SHOP plan to us via Healthcare Marketplace. We are also able to offer dental and

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”

vision insurance which 6 staff will be taking advantage of for their 2019/2020 contract. Account is still in the process of being set up.

DOE Report: Accountability report was submitted 9/3. Jane Waterhouse at the DOE has acknowledged it was received and we will get feedback from the DOE within the week. Critical Shortage Survey was submitted to the DOE.

Enrollment: 167

Tours have been scheduled. Currently we have a waitlist of 18, however; classroom sizes have been maximized at those levels. Already received first check from State Adequate Aid for first day enrollment.

Fire and Safety Inspection: Passed 9/19/2019; we will be receiving the Certificate of Occupancy back from the Fire Marshal shortly. Passed Board of Health in Kitchen area.

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

Roll call was taken

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”

MOTION (Felicia/Jack B) Motion to seal minutes was accepted unanimously.

MOTION (Neil/JackB) Motion to adjourn was accepted unanimously.

Next public meeting October 17, at 7pm

Meeting adjourned 9:26 pm