Meeting Date: March 15, 2016

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, NH

6:50 PM: Meeting Called to Order

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Bill Spinelli (Chairman)

Bob Amrein (Vice Chairman)

Kim Rivers (Director)

Lisa Klein (Director)

Peter Bonaccorsi (Director)

Tom Tyler (Secretary)

Absent:

John Keicher (Treasurer)

Charisa Martin (Parent Representative)

Attending Gate City Staff:

Karin Cevasco (School Director)

Stephanie Fritz (7th Grade Teacher)

Dr. Jill Cane (Curriculum Coordinator)

Attending Public:

About 7 members of the general public were in attendance, including:

Sarah Hall

Daniele Preston

Hillary Henderson

Adam Fredrickson

Kristin Kaplan

Melanie Butler

Andrea Srinivas

**Quorum**: 6 of 8 voting members were in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 6:50 PM.

Public Comments

Hillary Henderson raised a question about when teacher/classroom assignments would be made accessible to parents, stressing that it would be helpful to have that information sooner rather than later. Lisa Klein noted that this information is typically made available in August about a week before school starts.

Adam Fredrickson read a letter from Rebecca Fredrickson to the board [EDITME: INC: Letter from Rebecca] advising care and full consideration be taken before making changes to the charter, and generally in favor of preserving multi-grade classroom.

Stephanie Fritz (7th Grade Teacher) discussed the teacher’s perspective on multi-grade classroom, generally in favor of single-grade classrooms. She discussed that social and emotional successes associated with multi-grade can be achieved in the single-grade format. She mentioned that teachers she spoke with support a single-grade format, and favor the Wheatley curriculum.

Daniele Preston supported a single-grade classroom, but wanted the administration to take care that the teachers need the time to continue supporting each other as they do in the multi-grade setting, and be given the time to do so.

Agenda Item

7:15 PM MOTION (Rivers/Klein): Motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Curriculum Committee: Proposal for Single-Grade Classrooms

Lisa Klein discussed the Curriculum Committee meeting and the proposal related to multi-grade and single-grade curriculum.

8:08 PM MOTION (Rivers/Klein): Motion to conduct a special public single-topic meeting to make a decision on the proposal from the Curriculum Committee meeting, to occur on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:45 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

School Calendar Update

8:09 PM MOTION (Tyler/Bonaccorsi) Motion to approve the recommended update to the proposed School Calendar, with no school for students to accommodate parent conferences on November 16, 2016 and April 12, 2017. Motion passed unanimously.

Directors Report

Karin Cevasco (School Director) provided the Director’s Report. Highlights:

* With cases of the flu, attendance has been bad this past week for both students and teachers.
* Arts integration night was rescheduled because of illness.
* We have invited a speaker to discuss the heroin epidemic for 5th-6th grade levels.
* We are preparing for Smarter Balanced testing.

Campaign for Parental Donations

Approximately $825 has been donated thus far as part of the Campaign for Parental Donations.

Policy and HR Committee Report

HR Committee to meet on Friday.

Assistant Director Position Proposal

Tabled

Finance Committee

Discussion on HR Salary Projections for 2016-17 was Tabled.

Public Relations Advisor Volunteer Position

Tom Tyler (Secretary) took an action item to pursue filling this volunteer position. [EDITME: Reference Action Item List].

Update from Friends Committee

[INC: Friends Committee Meeting Minutes]

Sarah Hall provided a verbal report of the Friends of GCCSA committee.

Highlights:

* The friends@gccs-nh.org email address hadn’t been monitored but will be.
* The Scholastic Book Fair was an incredible success.

Treasurer’s Report

The report will be deferred to the Special Meeting.

Update on Strategic Planning 1 Year Goals

Tabled.

Approval of Strategic Planning 3 and 5 Year Goals

Tabled.

Survey for Parent Feedback Capture

Tom Tyler (Secretary) discussed the Survey for Parent Feedback Capture, and extending it for use as a general parent feedback capture survey, going beyond the original intent of capturing feedback from parents who have left the school.

Update on Employee Hiring Policy

Peter introduced a draft hiring policy for discussion. This will be continue to evolve.

Public Comment

Daniel Preston continued discussion on the multi-age classroom, noting that a decision needed to be made quickly to allow time for various purposes, such as teach professional development, parent decisions.

Sarah Hall stressed that the Board of Trustees communication about essential decisions needs to be

9:44 PM MOTION (Bonaccorsi/Tyler) Motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.