

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: October 15, 2020

Time: 7:06 PM

Location: Remote Meeting using Google Meetings, NH

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Neil Mahoney (Parent Rep)

Jenny Hitzeman

Absent Board Members:

Felicia Doucette (Treasurer)

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Suzanne Wheeler

Astrid Alvarado

Jennifer Blanchette

Attending Public:

Kris O’Keefe

Eric Charest

Public Comments/Public Matters

Recording the meetings was discussed

Approval of Minutes from September 2020

Postponed till the November Meeting

Committee Reports

PTO- Neil Mahoney. The PTO is holding a Boo Thru on Halloween 1pm-3pm, this is a community event as well as a fundraiser. The bookfair will be held outside. Our first restaurant night will be at Blaze Pizza. Unfortunately, the Mom Prom has been canceled and everyone will be refunded.

Curriculum Committee- Jennifer Blanchette-see directors report

H/R Policy Committee-Jenny Hitzeman-Maternity/paternity policy is still awaiting info from finance committee

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PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault-GCCSA students decided on a dragon scarecrow and Ms. Ashton is busy working on it.

Grants Committee- See Curriculum Director report

Facilities Committee- Eric Charest- Eric fixed a speaker. PTO donated a ring doorbell to the school. HVAC is on our floor and pulls in fresh air.

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

Finance Committee Meeting

Neil and Danielle gave a review of the finance committee meeting minutes from October. The budget is still being updated. We are reaching out to local charter schools to see who they use for auditors.

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

Old Business

Returning to school 2020/2021- The Task Force met and has recommended to stay remote till January, most colleges are doing the same.

MOTION (Neil Mahoney/Sarah Thibeault) Motion to continue remote learning until after the Holiday break (1/19) was accepted with a vote of 3:1.

We then discussed going hybrid in January. A follow-up survey will be presented to the teachers before implementing a hybrid schedule. Also, keeping a close eye on the positivity rates and infection numbers to keep our students and safe before returning to school.

Budget Approval for 2020/2021 school year will be moved to the November meeting.

Maternity/Paternity policy should be ready to be voted on at the November meeting.

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New Business

Directors Report

Suzanne Wheeler- The law states that all IEP's must be reviewed in the first 30 school days. Therefore, October has been a month of meetings. There has been one evaluation meeting, seven IEP meetings, and four referrals meetings. We have been waiting since last March for three of the referral meetings as a full team is necessary and the districts that were closed could not do them. Also, we could not do any evaluations as a school psychologist has to administer them in person and this was not possible. I hope these schools stay open until these are done so that our students can receive the services they need.

A problem with a new Nashua student receiving ancillary services caused a set of parents upset. Although I sat in on the meeting as did the classroom teacher the mother became very agitated and the decision was made to plan another meeting for the following week. Before that next meeting, the parents emailed me to ask if I thought GCCS was appropriate for the student. Both the classroom teacher and I (after a few observations) felt the student was being appropriate and engaged and I let the mother know that. I also stated that right now he is working from home and I pointed out that the structure would be different when the school reopened. At the next meeting, parents made the decision to pull speech and language series so that the IEP will have to be amended by Nashua and the student will remain at GCCS.

Parents who have requested a date for parent conferences (only a few) I have answered that they can contact the teacher for a virtual conference at any time.

I am very impressed with the teachers going above and beyond to give our students rigorous content and then have tutorials and meetings with students who require reinforcement after the end of the school day.

Jennifer Blanchette-

Curriculum Needs and Acquisition:

In Progress:

Touch Math K-8 RTI curriculum to be used in Special Education and Title 1 instruction. This will vertically align our intervention curriculum and provide data-proven instruction to improve math proficiency. This will be paid for through the Title 1A Grant, using \$4,900 of grant funds.

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Artist-of-the-Month:

1. Successful first community meeting was held.
2. Staff “judging” building knowledge and cohesiveness.
3. Materials have been dispersed digitally to all classroom teachers for this month’s artist.

Still to be acquired:

Adobe Student Suite: K-8 Art instruction and administrative applications. NOTE: This program will be most beneficial when we return to in-person instruction due to tech limitations. This will be postponed until a return to school.

Title Grants:

Title 1A, Title II, and Title IV grants have been drafted.

Title IA has been submitted and is now in the revision process.

Title 1A funds have been allotted in the amount of \$63,771.98

Title 1:

1. Parent permissions have been sent for initial participants.
2. Evaluations are underway.
3. i-Ready scores and student performance will be used to inform future student enrollment.

I-Ready Testing:

1. Testing is underway for grades K-5.
2. Students are testing from home.
3. Families were supplied with assistive materials.

State Testing:

1. State interim testing will be from grades 4-8 in math and ELA beginning on November 2nd.
2. I became a certified remote test administrator.
3. I have taken remote training in test administration and assignment.
4. It will be administered as a link rather than through a formal process.

Recruitment:

1. 4 new students this month with 4 additional pending
2. Worked with Enrollment Coordinator to respond to potential student guardian questions regarding curriculum.

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Teacher Certification:

I am currently working with several teachers to develop plans for certification, alt certification and/or renewal.

Teacher PD:

1. Instructional uses for i-ready
2. VTS for the classroom

Teacher Meetings:

I am meeting with each teacher to develop yearly goals.

Training and PD:

I have participated in training this month for the Grants Management System, EL, i-Ready, Statewide Assessment System and Title grants.

Academic Enrichment Groups:

Beginning September 21st, EA's and teachers have been offering a club/enrichment activity to students. There has been a very positive response from the community and instructors.

Astrid Alvarado

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

Next public meeting Thursday November 19, 2020, 7pm

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm