

**Gate City Charter School for the Arts
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

Date: 8/18/15

Time: 6:45 PM

Location: 7 Henry Clay Dr. Merrimack, NH

Attendance:

Bill Spinelli

Bob Amrein

John Keicher

Debbie Christianson

Lisa Klein

Karin Cevasco

Public Attendance:

Kim Rivers

Manny Ramirez

Jill Cane

Charissa Martin

Peter Bonaccorsi

Quorum: 5 of 5 members present

- I. **Public Meeting Call to Order and Agenda presented: 6:45 PM**
- II. **Public Comment: 6:50**
 - A. Manny Ramirez wants to register his business as Gate City Arts and Graphics (graphic design, painting on canvas, etc. . .). He needs permission from the board of our school because his business name is very similar to the schools name. It was suggested that he change his business name to Gate City Graphics & Arts. Manny agreed. Bob Amrein suggested we send the information to the attorney and make sure there are no other issues. A motion was made to send the information to the attorney and it was seconded.
 - B. Three possible candidates are present and introduced themselves to the board: Kim Rivers, Charissa Martin, and Peter Bonaccorsi
- III. Executive Session called at 7:06 to approve new board members
- IV. The Board welcomed Charissa Martin as the new Parent Rep Trustee for a one year position and Kim Rivers and Peter Bonaccorsi joined the board in two-year positions. The board introduced themselves to the new members. A short discussion ensued regarding protocol for

trustee meetings and a review of the “chain of command” when parents have issues.

V. **Reading and Approval of Minutes: 7:20 PM**

Minutes from the previous meeting were read. A motion to approve the minutes was passed and filed.

VI. **Reports and Open Board Discussion**

A. **Treasurer’s Report: 7:25PM**

A motion was made to accept and file the Treasurer’s Report.

B. **Employee Handbook and School Handbook**

The board agreed to table the approval of the updated handbooks until Peter has a chance to review them.

C. **Friends of GCCSFA**

a. The meetings will be the second Thursday of each month, the first one September 10, 2015.

b. Debbie is working on creating a VolunteerSpot.com page that will be where all GCCSFA families can find volunteering opportunities. The page will be up and running for the ice cream social where advertising for the Friend’s committee will be apparent.

D. **Director’s Report**

a. Many teachers have been attending summer professional development workshops.

b. Teachers are required to return to work on August 24th. Some of the PD they can expect is from Eureka Math, Daily Five, arts integration, procedures, etc . . . Gene Thompson Grove from the School Reform Initiative will put on a workshop on Professional Learning Communities.

c. A new 5/6 teacher has been hired as well as SPED paras. The school is fully staffed for the 2015/2016 year.

d. New FOSS science materials and some new Wheatley materials have been shipped to the school.

e. North Main Music School has been contracted to provide integrated music lessons, as well as band. All students will receive two music classes each week, as well as chorus. Keyboards have arrived and being unpacked by volunteers.

f. Our vista volunteer, Andrew Cherna’s term ends in November. Americorps will not renew our application for another vista as our population is not “disadvantaged” enough.

g. As for enrollment, 154 of 160 spots have been taken with more interested students.

h. Karin has created an Emergency Response Plan. This will be shared with fire and police personnel. It was brought to Karin’s

attention by a police captain that a marijuana dispensary was trying to get a permit to go into a building on Daniel Webster Highway. The police will be in touch with the Department of Education to ensure that our school stays in a Drug Free Zone.

E. The Arts Enrichment Hour Proposal by Bob Amrein

Bob wants the board to consider this proposal that would give students a chance to further explore the arts. "Arts simply for the sake of arts." An extra hour would be added on to Mon, Tues., Thurs., and Friday where the student would choose a comprehensive elective in music arts, performing arts or visual arts. It would be an hour long course that would run throughout the year. Current instructional staff would not be required to teach any classes, but would be offered the chance. Bob believes this can be funded through a rebate from the real estate tax if it is approved by the town of Merrimack. Peter recommended that each individual board member come up with questions, lists of pros and cons to discuss at next month's meeting.

F. Strategic Plan

Bill wants the board to further consider a comprehensive strategic plan. There will be further discussion at the next board meeting.

VII. Next meeting: September 15, 2015

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm