

Great Expectations School
Growing Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time

Regular School Board Meeting at the School
Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

In attendance: Jonathan Hedstrom, Susan Miller, Suzy Schweig, Jeff Kern, Amy Henrikson, Pete James, Ellen Pillsbury, and Kristin DeArruda-Warton of Safe Routes to School.

Item #

- 1.0 Jonathan called the meeting to order at 4:10.
- 2.0 Jeff read the mission.
- 3.0 Suzy moved to approve the agenda and Jeff seconded. Ayes all.
- 4.0 Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Susan seconded. Ayes all.
 - 4.1 Minutes from November 9th, 2010 Meeting
 - 4.2 Minutes from the December 4th, 2010 Training/Meeting
 - 4.3 Committee Reports
- 5.0 Treasurer's Report

GES has applied for the Finance Award for year 2011. We received draft audit. No errors and omissions. Our auditor will be joining board meeting in January via Skype to give final information. We need to have a corporate resolution done by our two financial institutions. Amy will be added to signature list as she is now Chief Financial Officer. We reviewed our financial policy. Now policy says "at least one officer of the school board must sign checks." Other changes are noted in document. See report. Amy will send revised version of Cash Receipt Policy.

Jeff moved that the board approves the corporate resolution for Security State Bank and North Shore Credit Union. Susan seconded. Ayes all.

Jeff moved and Susan seconded to approve the reviewed expenditures and fund transfers. Ayes all.

 - 5.1 Review of Expenditures and Fund Transfers
- 6.0 Committee Reports
 - 6.1 Director's Report

Pete has been working with the other school directors and Superintendent Beth Schwarz. They have been discussing ISD 166 initiatives that may lead to opportunities for Cook County students. One idea is a preschool and another is a summer school for students whom are at risk as assessed on MAP tests. The summer school would be something between remediation and reinforcement and Kids Camp. It would be made available through Community Ed and offered to all students in the county. Another initiative is about bullying. Questions asked included "How do we address violence in the community?" Pete said we have to

get away from using the language of “bullying” because it sounds like a school problem and wants the community behind a different way of thinking.

GES needs to make some changes in our Enrollment Policy. Pete clarified how we talk about priorities for students in enrollment: siblings and enrollment is required by law. Change language from “staff” to “teachers” to have enrollment priority. Also, we want to change kindergarten eligibility to say that students who are turning 5 years old by September 1 will have priority over those whom are younger but can be enrolled under discretion of director and kindergarten teacher.

Pete recommended that we look at our 4th grade cap as there is a student’s family who is interested in enrolling in GES. Susan moved to raise the cap in the 4th grade from 8 to 9 students and the motion died for lack of second.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Action Items / Task Updates

7.2 Bus Sale

We sold the buses.

7.3 Next Meeting Date / Board Retreat

The next official board meeting is January 18 and the board retreat is January 21.

7.4 Training Review / Exercise-saved for next board meeting.

7.5 Board Vacancy

Jeff moved to appoint Sara to fill the board vacancy. Susan seconded. Ayes all.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Safe Routes to School Presentation (moved to top)

Ellen Pillsbury shared the final plan for the Safe Routes to School. (SRTS) They received a grant from MNDOT and she shared the goals with us. Main goal is to improve safety around school traffic zones. SRTS joined forces with SHIP program (Statewide Health Improvement Program) which promotes preventative health. The Bike Rodeo and City-wide active week will take place in May again 2011. SRTS just developed a recommended walking and riding routes for Grand Marais. They came today because now that a map exists they are asking for GES board endorsement. GES has had great participation and Kristin thanked Pete for being at the meetings and being committed to communicating with families. They would hope we would make a motion of support of the plan and beyond that would be to have a representative be present at meetings, assist with Bike Rodeo and Walking School Bus events and advocacy support when going to city council.

Jeff moved and Susan seconded that the GES board endorse the SRTS work that’s been done and participates with representatives attending meetings. Ayes all.

8.2 Committee Assignments

We have reshuffling in the committees since the annual meeting. Think about what committee each of us would like to be a part of.

9.0 Suzy moved to adjourn at 7:10 and Jeff seconded. Ayes all.