

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

Regular School Board Meeting at the School
March 15, 2011
Approved Minutes

In attendance: Jonathan Hedstrom, Jeff Kern, Baiers Heeren, Suzy Schweig, Susan Miller, Sara Hingos, Andrew Ashcroft, and Pete James, Amy Henrikson.

1.0 Jonathan called the meeting to order at 4:08.

2.0 Jeff read the mission.

3.0 **Agenda**

Baiers moved and Sara seconded to approve the amended agenda. Ayes all.

4.0 **Consent Agenda**

Sara moved and Baiers seconded to approve the consent agenda. Ayes all.

4.1 Minutes from February 15, 2010 Meeting

4.2 Committee Reports

4.3 Review of Expenditures and Fund Transfers

5.0 **Treasurer's Report**

The most significant thing going is next year's budget. The finance committee is working on a preliminary draft and will have numbers at next meeting. They met with Jean Mathis at Security Sate Bank to see what it might look like to have 2 loans going at the same time. Amy said she feels confident that we will be able to work something out that will be right for us. Pete said he was pleased with Jean's enthusiasm for the school and willingness to work with the school. She made many positive comments about our school. Pete said that Amy, Suzy and Pete will be working on a committee to look at salary and benefits program- compensation. We will be looking at financial aspects of compensation packet. Jeff and Sara said they'd be willing to work on that program.

6.0 **Committee Reports**

Pete wanted to fill in some information from other educators. We are doing work with an AmeriCorps volunteer for the Greenhouse Grant. We're looking at curriculum including nutrition, botany, ecosystems and more. It is very exciting because it gives us some structure and consistency around things we are already doing. We are also looking at field trips and beginning to develop a framework for how we're going to be structuring them and curriculum around new classroom configurations. It's a big part of the initiatives that are going on in the school. The Wolves and Otters were visited by a "History Player" through Minnesota Historical Society who taught us a ton about the Minnesota Fur Trade. The Otters and Moose will be going to the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth. We've received a grant to offset the cost of transportation.

7.0 **Old Business**

7.1 **Action Items / Task Updates**

We looked at next year's calendar which is in line with ISD 166's calendar. Pete asked if our board meeting time still works for the group. It does. Pete gave us an updated calendar for GES. We discussed the need for educator time to write narratives at the

end of the year. We decided May 18, 2012 would be a day with no students for GES. Suzy moved and Jeff seconded to approve next years' amended FY2012 calendar. Ayes all. The board looked at how we could make this day off possible next year. Baiers said we should see how it's received next year before we make it permanent.

7.2 Dashboard

Sara brought a working draft of a dashboard. Andrew had to leave at 5:01. Susan asked who would establish the criteria. Pete thought the board would at the board retreat. We want to add committees and calendar. Sara thought each committee could present their own system of data. Amy thought we should take one or two to see what it would look like. What are our priorities on the committees and how do we know if we are on track or are doing a good job? Sara would like all the info to come to her and she would put it out and it would be sent in the board packet. We talked about the format we might want for our dashboard.

7.3 Enrollment-3rd Reading of Enrollment Policy

Sara moved and Baiers seconded to approve the changes to the Enrollment Policy. Ayes all.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Grade Level Caps

The idea is to have a strategy for grade level caps and identify the framework. In directors' report, Pete said:

"For all grades K-6, the greater of 10 students or the number of returning students...

For grades 7 and 8, the number of returning students only, and

For all grades exceeding 10 students, the cap will fall to 10 as students depart."

Susan moved and Sara seconded to set the grade level caps as previously written.

Ayes Susan, Suzy, Sara, Baiers, Jonathan, and Jeff abstained. Motion carries.

Pete asked about the Community Ed. Gardening Club meeting here and using our greenhouse and space this summer with Diane Booth. Many of our kids are in the Gardening Club and it would be great to also extend our space to some community folks. They would be using two garden boxes along the south edge of the greenhouse. Sara asked if Pete had talked with Karina about it to make sure it would not conflict with anything we're trying to do for the greenhouse sale.

8.2 Committee Assignments/Expectations

We have already established our committee assignments.

Policy: Jeff, chair and Pete and another person

Fundraising: Suzy, liaison which submits reports, Mel, chair

Finance: Baiers, chair, Jeff

Technology: Jonathan, chair and Jeff

Communications and Community Outreach Committee: Andrew, chair

Environmental Ad-Hoc: Sara, chair and Mel

Board Development: Sara

Personnel: Susan, chair and Jeff

Enrollment: Ad Hoc with current members:

Facilities: Jonathan, Pete, Mike, and Jerry

9.0 Jeff moved and Baiers seconded to adjourn at 6:08. Ayes all.

Tasks:

1. All committees: Think through what are the goals and key measurable goals in this committee? INFOMETRIX
2. Amy and Sara will work on dashboard and will put together something to present to the board.
3. Suzy-resend committee descriptions
4. Susan-contact Andrew to talk about committee expectations
5. Sara talk with Amanda Hand to see if she'd be interested in board for the future
- ~~6. Sara will talk with Karen Blackburn~~
7. All committees have a meeting or submit a report on where they are with goals.
8. All committees set a consistent time to meet each month or communicate if they will not meet each month.
9. Pete- Put in newsletter to ask for new committee members.
- ~~10. Suzy- Talk with Mel about fundraising comm.. reports and goals~~