

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

Regular School Board Meeting at the School
April 19, 2011
Approved Minutes

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

- 1.0 Jonathan called the meeting to order at 4:05
- 2.0 Jeff read the mission.
- 3.0 Suzy moved to approve the amended agenda. Susan seconded. Ayes all.

4.0 Consent Agenda

Jeff moved to approve the consent agenda. Susan seconded. Ayes all.

- 4.1 Minutes from March 15, 2011 Meeting
- 4.2 Committee Reports
- 4.3 Review of Expenditures and Fund Transfers

Sara asked about Woodcutter's Ball fundraising event and when the advertising would be done as well as how seasoned the wood would be. The event is not set to take place until fall and more details will be given at next month's meeting. Jeff said he'd help.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

Amy reported that last month the finance committee met and came up with a very preliminary budget for FY12. Amy referred to survey staff completed regarding next year's priorities: desks, lockers, part-time teacher to teach specialists such as foreign language and art, an extra paid day off. Major factor that contributed to differences in columns for GES School Budget was the MACS report of compensation for charter schools.

Pete, Sara, Suzy and Amy met yesterday to talk about staff salaries. Our goal is to be closer to the average salaries. We decided for the director we'd try and aim for 75% of average and a goal to get there in 3 years. Business Manager goal was to shoot for 90% of average. 90% was a reasonable goal for teachers as well. Teachers are looking at 5½ percent increase this year.

Jeff commented that he was concerned that we are using MACS' information since only 28% schools responded to the survey. Other parts of salary puzzle are what duties, size schools, replacement cost of staff? Pete commented that we have more information now than we've had in the past. We can do some more work by talking with Chuck Speiker, ACNW liaison, to gather more information.

One of the reasons we looked at 90% for teachers and business manager is because the jobs are comparable no matter how many kids are in the school.

We discussed possibility of joining MACS as they have lessened their dues for smaller charter schools. Our membership would enable us to be a part of their teacher relicensure, training, and advocacy.

Jeff asked if there were other things the teachers wanted that were not included in the new budget to make jobs easier.

Sara commented that she was comfortable with the amount we'd be adding to our fund balance. The fundraising budget says \$9,500, but the committee would like to make it \$9,000. The BOD training-we reduced the amount needed to train next year's new board members plus travel expenses.

Jeff commented that a nice job was done by Pete and Amy on next years' budget. Pete said that it makes it so much easier when the board gives good direction. There were surveys done by families and staff that helped drive the budget.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Personnel Committee Report

6.1.1 Invitation to returning staff

Pete said officially the board looks at classroom configurations and classroom performance. Pete is recommending that the current teachers be offered positions again next year. We discussed our memos of understanding. Pete would like to formally contact all staff to invite staff back.

Baiers moved to communicate to all staff their status for next fall pending a decision of the personnel committee. Jeff seconded. Ayes all.

The personnel committee will initiate the annual review of the director.

6.2 Committee Goals

6.3 Board Development

Karen Blackburn will help Sara gather names to fill 4 spots for next year's board.

Sara would like the Dashboard to become a committee so it will actually hammer out details of the process. Pete suggested it be a working group to pull in members on a short-term basis. Amy and Sara put together a very preliminary chart (dashboard) for attendance. There should be indicators as to what is acceptable attendance and tardiness. Jonathan said he'd be willing to work on the format.

Sara would like to talk about proper use of public funds. Susan talk with GEF about running certain fundraising events through them such as t-shirt sale.

Jeff reported that he and Pete had a policy committee meeting. First task is to digitize the policies. The courthouse does that and Jeff will find out the cost. Do we have the policies that match our goals and come up with a framework to review them on a given schedule? Should the board do the policy review? They thought not and the committee can review and recommend certain policies to board to approve within consent agenda.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Action Items / Task Updates

8.0 New Business

8.1 Preliminary Budget Review

8.2 Graduation/Volunteer Recognition Event Planning

3 students are graduating this year. We won't need a tent this year since it turned out to not be needed last year. Talk with Chris Callender who cooked last year. Would he be willing to cook and coordinate food again this year? Graduation is Thursday, June 9 at 11:00 ish.

Pete talked about Volunteer Recognition. Volunteers are an essential part of what makes our school work so he would like to thank them in some fashion. Perhaps a pot luck. Tentative Volunteer Appreciation Pot Luck.

9.0 Sara moved and Susan seconded to adjourn at 6:31.