

Great Expectations School

Growing Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Alyssa Hedstrom called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.
 - 1.1 Attendance
Present: Alyssa Hedstrom, Jeff Kern, Mike Carlson, Lee Stewart, Kathryn Nelson-Pedersen, Suzy Schweig, Beth Ferry, Peter James, Clara Weitz
 - 1.2 Check-In
2. Reading of the Mission: The mission of the school is to develop in each child: a love of learning; critical and creative thinking skills; mastery of the academic building blocks; the ability to nurture family, friends and self; a strong commitment to being a contributing member of a community; open-heartedness toward others; and a passion for life-long learning.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mike, seconded by Suzy, to approve the agenda. All in favor – motion passed.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes

4.2 Approve Expenditures, Deposits and Fund Transfers

Motion by Kathryn, seconded by Jeff, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor – motion passed.

5. Audubon Renewal Update

We are approved for five years, the maximum. A contract with specific terms will be drawn up by June.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mike reported that we have 7% more expenses than income so far this year. Beth clarified the difference between fundraising ("small stuff"), donations (plant sale, Equal Exchange, and outright donations) and family contributions (supplies, swim lessons) in the accounting reports.

Discussion about lack of family contributions towards Y memberships and swimming lessons.

Cash flow continues to be a problem. Will need another \$10K in loans this month. Will end up borrowing \$71K altogether. When state funding comes through in July, we will be able to repay line of credit and loans.

6.1. Check in for next year's budget.

Budget is based on 87 students for next year. April board meeting will be the first look at budget for FY17. May – first draft of budget will be approved. June –final budget is approved. Deadline is June 30. Per pupil funding will increase 2%.

6.2. Review LOC (Line of Credit)

\$48K is our limit at the Credit Union; we will receive \$5K from GEF and \$17K short term loan from a member of finance committee.

7. Director's Report

Pete reported on the Celebration of Writing on March 24th; enrollment status for next fall; calendar for next year drafted by ISD166 (160 student contact days, professional development days moved to Fridays); Bemidji State student request to do her student teaching at GES; and continuing the agreement with Amy James to be the school nurse.

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Lee, to provisionally accept the FY17 calendar if approved by ISD 166 at their meeting tonight. All in favor – motion passed.

Motion by Alyssa, seconded by Mike, to allow Deb Smith to student teach in the Wolves classroom. All in favor – motion passed.

Motion by Suzy, seconded by Kathryn, to approve Amy James as school nurse. Jeff recommended that we advertise an opening for school nurse. All in favor – motion passed.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Board Development - Calendar is in the drop box with courses available for board members to take.

8.2 Technology: Parent Survey Draft and Finalization – Lee presented a survey with questions about technology. Discussion about questions to ask parents regarding technology in the school and access at home to complete homework.

8.3 Personnel: Job Descriptions/Director's Review Update – Started to identify tasks across all administrative roles and decide who is doing which ones.

8.3.1 PTO

8.4 Facilities Update – Jeff distributed a facility planning outline with framing questions, goals, action plan, and a list of issues identified by the facilities committee.

9. Old Business

10. Upcoming Actions

10.1 Graduation

11. Check-out

12. Adjournment

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Lee, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. All in favor – motion passed.

GES Board meetings are open to all. While guests may not participate during the business meeting, our host team is available to visit, answer questions, and discuss your issues 15 minutes prior to each meeting. We invite you to share your ideas, suggestions, and concerns with our hosts during this time.