

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

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School
Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
(Rescheduled from January 20)

1. Call to Order: Sara Hingos called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1.1 Attendance

Members present: Sara Hingos, Kathryn Nelson-Pedersen, Mike Carlson, Sue Butter, Jeff Kern. Also present: Amy Henrikson, Peter James, Clara Weitz

1.2 Check-In & Two Minute Story

2. Reading of the Mission: Sue read 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 Kathryn, seconded by Sue, to approve the agenda. All in favor with changes:

- Change date from the original Jan. 20 to Jan. 27.
- Postpone 5.0 Board Training until February meeting.
- Change 7.1 from 'Approve' to 'Discuss Next FY Calendar'.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes from December 16, 2014 Meeting

4.2 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Mike, to approve the consent agenda. Correction to minutes: replace the word 'cushion' with 'policy' (under 5.1). Amy clarified the origin of deposits listed under fundraisers and donations. Thank you letters have been sent for all donations. All in favor.

5. Board Training-Finance PowerPoint: postponed until February meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 Approve Budget Revisions

Sara reviewed the revisions made at the Finance Committee meeting, which include:

- Revenue now reflects actual money received.
- Director's salary corrected, due to prior approved increase of 10%.
- Amy's hours decreased to 17 hours per week; new technology person (Anna Brown) is working 8 hours per week.
- Fawn paraprofessional wages updated.
- Addition of 2 more professional development days during the summer.
- Anonymous \$5,000 donation received.

- Fund balance is 6.5%.

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Kathryn, to approve the revised budget. All in favor.

6.2 Educator Meeting Feedback – Three options were presented:

- a) Freeze wages; class size remains at 10 per grade
- b) Wage increase of 2.5%; Increase class size to 11 students per grade
- c) Smaller increase in wages (less than 2.5%) and add 11th student

The board will set enrollment caps next month.

7. Director's Report

Pete reported on:

- The installation of broadband
- Cook County Local Energy Project would like GES to renew our commitment to the biomass program
- A GES family will help fund our conversion from fluorescent to LED lighting in the school. This will happen gradually.
- Swimming lessons at end of Feb to early March for all students except Otters, who will swim but not have formal lessons.
- ISD166 will continue to do snowplowing; there is no formal contract.
- 7 students are going to compete in MATHCOUNTS! at UMD Feb. 3rd
- Funeral/bereavement leave – recommend allowing employees to use sick days for this purpose, this year. Need to write a policy for future years.

Motion by Sara, seconded by Jeff, that for the 2014-15 school year, we will allow staff members to use any unused sick days as funeral / bereavement days. Kathryn and Sue abstained. All others in favor.

Jeff departed at 5:02 p.m.

- Some Special Education paperwork will shift from Susan Miller to Clara, to allow Susan more time to work with students.

7.1 Discuss Next FY Calendar: There are 165 student contact days on the draft of next year's calendar (5 more than this year). Workshop days have decreased by 5 days, and have shifted from Fridays to Mondays to better accommodate dental and orthodontist appointments, federal holidays and Friday sporting events. School starts Sept. 8, 2015 and ends June 2, 2016.

We will want to follow the same calendar as ISD166 because of shared transportation, and families who have students in both schools. However, we can decide whether we want the 5 extra student days, or more professional development days added back in. Teachers will discuss and bring feedback to next Board meeting, at which time the Board will vote to approve the calendar.

Amy departed at 5:15 p.m.

7.2 Transportation Intent/Extracurricular Activities Agreement with ISD166

Motion by Sue, seconded by Kathryn, to continue our agreements with ISD166 regarding transportation and extracurricular activities. All in favor.

Discussion about Governor's proposed increase to education funding over next two years. A new initiative will make Charter schools eligible for half-funded pre-K (all day for 4 years-olds).

8. Committee Report

8.1 Bylaw Review Final reading: No changes since last meeting.

Motion by Sue, seconded by Mike, to approve the revised bylaws. All in favor.

8.2 Policy Committee: At the last meeting, work continued on the anti-bullying policy, and also on the Crisis Manual to make it more user-friendly.

8.3 Board Development: The News-Herald will publish an article about GES seeking new Board members.

8.4 February Committee Meeting (Policy/Personnel): Tuesday, February 3. Will plan to finish up Policy, and start on Personnel issues, especially as they relate to the budget.

9. Old Business

9.1 January 23, Retreat (calendar)

Sara reviewed the Board retreat; Jeff posted a list of items discussed. Sara will make a list of items that need to be followed up on, and who is assigned to each. 'Tasks' will be added to meeting agendas.

10. New Business

10.1 School Lock-up Procedure: Over the course of three months, Jerry Starr documented many instances of doors left open, windows not closed, and lights left on after hours. Discussion about outdoor lighting and safety. Kathryn will make a closing checklist to ensure that all steps are followed at the end of the day. Sara will attend teacher's meeting this Thursday to talk about this issue.

11. Upcoming Actions

11.1 Review next FY Technology Plan: Amy and Anna Brown

11.2 Review Financial Policies & Procedures

12. Check-out

11.1 Meeting Survey

13. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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.