

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

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School
Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Sara Hingos called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

1.1 New Member Welcome – The Board welcomed Mike Carlson, community member, and Kathryn Nelson-Pedersen, educator.

1.2 Attendance

1.3 Check-In & Two Minute Story: At the beginning of each meeting, we will have a quick check-in with each member. Please say whether you were able to read all the materials in the board packet, and share with the group any personal comments that you wish. Sara gave her two minute story, which is a brief overview of GES that would describe the school to someone unfamiliar with it and dispel some of the myths about charter schools. For next time, please prepare your own 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 Jeff, to approve the agenda.

Additions to the agenda:

9.4 Board email.

6.1 Chance to Grow contract.

9.5 Succession plan for Director, Staff and Board.

All in favor of approving the amended agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes from October 21, 2014 Meeting

4.2 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Sue, to approve the consent agenda.

Corrections to 10/21/14 minutes:

a) 6.0 Clarify reason for pay raise given to a paraprofessional.

b) 7.1 Add Kathryn's last name.

c) 7.2 Bylaw Review: sentence should read "The power to amend the bylaws is vested in the Board."

All in favor of approving consent agenda with above corrections.

5. Treasurer's Report: November 10th was Allison Plummer's final meeting as treasurer. The Finance Committee discussed the budget to actual report and looked ahead to budget revisions that the full board will review in January.

6. Director's Report

Pete's report included the following topics:

- Student progress reports now include a character development summary
- Staff evaluation system is being reviewed
- Broadband is coming soon to GES
- World's Best Workforce report will be ready by end of the month
- Audubon's Charter School leaders retreat

Please see the Director's Report for complete details.

Discussion about new math curriculum and lack of training for teachers. Suggestion to set aside a teacher workshop day to focus on math and learning how to use the new math materials.

6.1 Discussion about third party billing service from Chance to Grow. **Motion** by Jeff, seconded by Mike, to approve a contract with Chance to Grow. Ayes all.

7. Committee Report

7.1 Board Development-Openings, Self-Review & Training

The current Board configuration was presented, with openings remaining for parents and community members. Amy will update the GES website with new member information for Mike and Kathryn. Sara will compile a list of parents who have been asked to join the Board and how they replied.

Discussion about Jeanne Monson's low attendance rate (40%) at board meetings. Jeff will ask Jeanne if she would like to remain on the board.

7.2 Bylaw Review: 1st reading – the Board reviewed the revised bylaws with changes that were made on the committee work day. Items which were discussed:

"Nominations for new directors shall be made to the secretary and publicly announced at least seven days prior to their appointment." Decision to remove this from the bylaws and replace it with: "They will be appointed at a scheduled Board meeting."

Board Development Committee: requirement to have one parent on this committee was removed from the bylaws.

Personnel Committee: agreed that it is important to keep this committee.

Sara will ask Jeanne Monson to review the Indemnification section.

There will be two more readings of the bylaws.

7.3 Policy Discussion: At the November policy committee meeting, there was discussion about personalizing some of the policies, such as the bullying policy. Do we want to take the time to rewrite it with a pro-active perspective that reflects our philosophy? The Safe and Supportive School Act requires that we have a policy, and it was agreed that we need to have a clear policy to guide us for those times when bullying arises.

This topic will be continued at the next policy meeting. Board members should review the bullying prohibition policy draft, which is in the November committee meeting drop box; make notes and bring suggestions to the Dec. 2nd policy meeting.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

9.1 ACNW Retreat Recap – Sara reported that this was the best retreat she has attended. Two websites she learned about at the retreat:

www.charterschooltools.org and www.mncharterschools.org

9.2 December Committee Meeting Focus-Lead & Minutes: We will focus on policy and will also discuss board training, Dec. 2nd from 4 to 6 pm. Jeff volunteered to lead and take minutes at the December meeting because Sara will be out of town.

9.3 January 23rd, 2015 Retreat: all day at North house Folk School (location to be confirmed).

9.4 Board Email - Amy set up a new email address for all board members, and all communication will go through that email. Standard format is:

firstname.lastname@GreatExpectationsSchool.com

Entire group: board@GreatExpectationsSchool.com

Amy will give a training session on how to access and use email accounts at the next meeting.

9.5 Succession Plan: Discussion postponed until the December meeting.

10. Upcoming Actions

10.1 Review Audit Report

10.2 New Signature Cards

11. Check-out

11.1 Meeting Survey

12. Adjournment at 6:07 pm

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.