

Great Expectations School

Growing Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School

Tuesday, December 18th, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order/Welcome & Introductions- the meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm

Present: Allison Lowe, Sara Hingos, Mary Haussner, Susan Miller, Jeff Kern, Tom Jack, Jon Hedstrom

Also present: Amy Henrikson, Peter James

2. Reading of the Mission: Pete 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- Susan made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of adding an environmental report (7.2) and technology committee report (7.3) Mary seconded-- Ayes all.

4. Consent Agenda- Allison made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Tom seconded, ayes all.

- 4.1 Approval of minutes from November 13, 2012- ayes all

- 4.2 Review of Expenditures and Fund Transfers

- 4.3 Lynx Update

5. Treasurer's Report- Allison reported that the holdback from the state of MN has been decreased from 37.5% to 17.5%. This is excellent news! The school received a check on Dec 15th for \$140,000. The finance committee researched a 3 month cd or a money market saving account. The interest would be \$180 on the cd or \$122 on the money market account.

Allison made a motion that GES deposits the amount \$140,000 into a 3 month certificate or deposit at the Grand Marais Credit Union. Jeff seconded – ayes all

The loan program might not be as necessary as we had originally thought. Between our fund balance and line of credit we may only need to ask a few individuals for 6 week loans in the amount of \$25,000.00.

4:14pm Jeanne Smith arrived

- 5.1 Review Audit Report - Amy H handed out the audit and Allison pointed out some things from FY12 . She mentioned our fund balances (increased) and that our fund balance percent is now 7.7%. Allison referenced the reasons why our fund balance was higher than we had anticipated.

Allison made a motion to approve the audit from FY12, Susan seconded . The cover letter was also passed to each board member. The letter from Miller McDonald essentially said it was a “clean audit”. Jeff asked several questions about how the audit is conducted and how deep they go. Ayes all.

6. Director’s Report –Pete supplied a written report. He referenced the school shooting in Connecticut.

7. Committee Reports -

7.1 Communications – Kristine Bottorff wanted to find info on CARES and Responsive Classroom. She looked at the website and it wasn’t there. Kristine would be interested in helping get the info out

7.2 Environmental Report- the committee went to the Green Schools Workshop at the Northshore community school. Amy H and Cheryl Larsen attended. Amy mentioned that GES does have some environmental policies or implementation plans already from when Melanie Steele started the committee. Northshore community school is designated a “green ribbon school”- Amy reported that the recommendation at the workshop was to encourage schools to go through the application process which will help us on our way to becoming more energy efficient.

7.3 Technology Report- Amy reported that she is exploring new technology for the school. Amy attended the TIES conference. It was a huge conference with 3,400 attendees. Amy learned mostly about i-pads. The tech committee met in early December and identified needs at GES- replacing 10 of our student laptops. The committee also wants to get i-pads to the teachers who do not have any experience with i-pads by the end of the fiscal year. However, we need to have a technology plan in place to get grants.

8. Old Business-

8.1 Board and Committee Calendar

8.2 January Retreat- January 21, 2012

9. New Business-

9.1 Committee Assignments

Communications- Jeff Kern

Fundraising- GEF

Board Development- Amanda Hand

Facility-

Finance- Allison Lowe

Policy-

Personnel- Susan Miller

Environmental- Amy Henrikson

Technology- Jon Hedstrom

9.2 Lockdown Procedure and School Safety- Pete described the lockdown procedure. Pete and Leif Lunde made a plan for 2 types of emergency. One is like a fire drill – everyone leaves- another is when everyone hides and stays using the key word “emergency”. The plan needs to be updated to include the cottage. The technology committee will look into the paging on the phone. The crisis manual is outdated and need to be updated.

10. Adjournment- Jeff moved to adjourn Allison seconded at 5:40 pm. Ayes all.

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 30 minutes prior to each meeting. We invite you to share your ideas, suggestions, and concerns with our hosts during this time.