

Great Expectations School
Growing Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time
Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 4:00-6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order at 4:15 p.m. by Alyssa Hedstrom, following public comment period.
 - 1.1 Attendance
Board Members present: Linda Garrity, Carolyn Fritz, Mike Carlson, Anna Brown, Suzy Schweig, Dylan Dragswiek, Alyssa Hedstrom
Others present: Anne Mundell, Peter James, Clara Weitz, Beth Ferry, Kathryn Nelson-Pedersen
 - 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 lifelong learning.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Suzy, seconded by Mike, to approve the agenda. All in favor – motion passed. Move enrollment up to #7 on the agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes

4.2 Approve Expenditures, Deposits and Fund Transfer

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

5. Sign Board Assurances

6. Treasurer's Report

7. Enrollment

7.1 Report and discussion from Monday's meeting with teachers

Alyssa recapped the discussion from Monday's meeting. Teacher concerns include lack of space, need to clarify long term vision, need to support teachers as enrollment increases, how to preserve "feel" of GES and important school traditions.

Discussion about students re-enrolling after having been gone for a period of time. A policy for this will be developed at a later time.

Each board member expressed their opinions about the pros and cons of increasing the kindergarten enrollment cap. Lengthy discussion about the reasons for moving in one direction versus the other, the consequences of the decision, and how to reconfigure the kindergarten room and other spaces to accommodate more students. A suggestion was made, and

rejected, to wait a year. The goal is to eventually have smaller class sizes overall, and a reconfigured middle school program with more academic specialists. Beth clarified that the new addition to the facility will be built in the summer of 2018.

7.2 Approval of Enrollment Caps for FY 2018

Motion by Mike, seconded by Alyssa, to set the kindergarten enrollment cap at 16 for FY18. All in favor – motion passed.

Motion by Linda, seconded by Suzy, to set the enrollment cap for FY 18 first grade class at 22. All in favor – motion passed.

Motion by Dylan, seconded by Carolyn, to set the enrollment cap at 11 students for grades 2-8 for FY18, with the exception of currently enrolled students. All in favor – motion passed.

Discussion about making exceptions for siblings on the waiting list. The topic was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

Alyssa will email the school staff with today's enrollment decisions.

8. Director's Report

8.1 Approve Calendar

Motion by Anna, seconded by Suzy, to approve the 2017-18 school calendar as presented. There are 162 student contact days, including 2 early release days; 180 contract days for teachers; 170 days for paraprofessionals. All in favor – motion passed.

The remaining agenda items were not discussed due to time constraints, except for 9.4.1 training date set.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Facilities Update

9.2 Policy Update

9.2.1 Set time for Beth, Alyssa, and Anna to meet.

9.3 Personnel Update

9.3.1 Sub License discussion

9.3.2 Discussion of communication route between board and teachers..

9.4 Board Training

9.4.1 Date for MAC training is March 18th.

10. New Business

11. Upcoming Actions

12. Check-out

13. Adjournment at 6:35 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.

