

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

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome New Member & Introductions

Called to order at 4:09. Present: Sara Hingos, Allison Plummer, Mary Haussner, Sue Butter, Jackie Dillenbeck, Jeanne Smith at 4:35, Jeff Kern at 4:45. Also present: Amy Henrikson, Peter James, Clara Weitz

2. Reading of the Mission: Jackie 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 Jackie, 2nd Sue, to approve the agenda with the following changes: add 3.1 and postpone 5.1. Ayes all.

3.1 Approve Clara Weitz as minute taker.

Motion by Sara, 2nd Mary, to appoint Clara Weitz as the GES Board Recorder.
Ayes all.

4. Consent Agenda. **Motion** by Allison, 2nd Mary, to approve with one correction to minutes – numbering system is out of order. Ayes all.

4.1 Approve Minutes from January 21, 2014 Meeting

4.2 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Financial Policy and Procedure Review – postponed until next month.

Allison reported that the committee met last week to review financial policies. They are still discussing policy revisions and will bring first draft to March meeting.

Amy reported that bank signature cards are being updated with new board members.

6. Board Development- Financial Power point

Amy presented a 'School Finance Primer' summarized here:

Revenue is primarily student driven, and the large majority is provided by the state. State aid includes:

- General Education funding (provides 53% of all state funding)
- Compensatory Revenue, based on free and reduced lunch eligibility. Forty-four percent of GES students qualify.
- Special Education Revenue. New – in 2015, charter schools will be required to pay approx. 3% of total Spec Ed costs.
- Lease Aid
- School Trust Land Endowment

- Literacy Incentive Aid

Federal revenue sources include: Rural entitlements and Title II funds
Local revenue includes fundraising, activity fees and donations.

Expenses: 68% goes to salaries and benefits; 15% to contracted services; 11% to the lease, and the remaining amount to supplies and materials.

Fund Balance: excess revenues accumulated over all the years the school has been in operation; cannot go below -5% of yearly expenses, according to ACNW (the state requires -2.5%).

Cash vs. Accrual: Our expenses are accrued, revenue is on a cash basis until the end of the year at which time everything is accrued.

7. Director's Report

7.1 FY 2014 School Calendar – Pete clarified some details about adding back make-up days due to weather cancellations. We are not required to adopt changes that ISD166 makes to the calendar during the school year. Charter schools need a minimum number of hours, not days. In future, does Board want to approve calendar changes that are short-notice, or follow what ISD166 does? After discussion, **Motion** by Sara, 2nd Sue, to adopt annual calendar and to give the Director authority to decide, in consultation with educational staff, how to handle calendar changes. Ayes all.

7.2 Copier Agreement: GES spends \$1,800 per year on color copying. Pete recommends replacing the current copier and service agreements with a new color-capable machine that will save money. **Motion** by Mary, 2nd Jackie, to replace the copier. Ayes all.

7.3 Confirm New Hire: Megan McClanahan will replace Rachel Andrus during her maternity leave. **Motion** by Sara, 2nd Mary, to approve the new hire. Ayes all.

Discussion about kindergarten class for 2014-15. There are 3 siblings enrolling and 7 open spots. An Open House will be scheduled for prospective families.

8. Committee Report

8.1 Technology Plan – no report given.

9. Old Business

9.1 Board Priorities

Sara presented the “Board Tree”, a diagram of how we want to connect all aspects of the school to each other and to the community.

During the Board retreat in January, a list of board priorities and strategies for implementing them was created. Each committee will have a list of tasks to accomplish as we work towards meeting these goals, including:

- Technology initiatives
- Maintaining optimal facilities

- Organizational stability/policies and procedures
- Effective school governance
- Personnel retention
- Developing additional funding sources
- Strong healthy relationships with students, staff, parents, and community

(Allison leaves at 5:15)

10. New Business - none

11. Upcoming Actions

11.1 Director Review

Sue and Sara will be doing the director's review during March and will report to the Board in April. It will be a Board-based (rather than staff-based) review.

11.2 Policy Review

Would like to have 3 policies in drop box for Board to review. Jeanne and Pete will work on this.

12. Adjournment: **Motion** by Jeff, 2nd Jackie, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. 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.