

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

**Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 4:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order at 4:02 p.m.

1.1 Attendance

Present: Mike Carlson, Annette Block-Valdivia, Sara Hingos, Kathryn Nelson-Pedersen, Jeff Kern at 4:06

Also present: David Greenberg from ACNW, Pete James, Amy Henrikson, Clara Weitz

1.2 Appoint new member

**Motion** by Mike, seconded by Kathryn, to appoint Annette Block-Valdivia to the Board. The term expires in November, 2015. All in favor.

1.3 Check-In & Two Minute Story

2. Reading of the Mission: Amy 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 Annette, to approve the agenda. All in favor.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes from February 17, 2015 Meeting

4.2 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

**Motion** by Kathryn, seconded by Annette, to approve the consent agenda. All in favor.

5. David Greenberg-Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW)

As our authorizer, ACNW evaluates the school's performance in several areas.

5.1 Financial Performance Evaluation

Systems are in place to effectively manage finances. Issues of concern: Only 16 days cash on hand; and the fund balance is 5.7% at end of 2014, compared to the recommended 25%. David is recommending GES grow its fund balance to at least 10% in the next 2 years. Discussion about how this can be done and how we compare with other charter schools.

5.2 Academic Performance Evaluation

Academic evaluation is based on data from the school's annual report and from MDE statewide testing data. GES was identified as a high quality charter school. However,

academic performance has been mixed, with strong growth in reading but less in math, where scores were lower than state and district averages. There has been a downward trajectory in math the past 2 years. Students have been performing well in science.

Sara thanked David for his input.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

### 6.1 Review Financial Policies & Procedures 1st

Some minimal changes were made in the policies to clarify responsibilities. The committee discussed enrollment, and budget to actual figures, which are close to where they should be. The FY16 budget will be discussed in April. Pete will find out if GES can be a designated recipient of NSFCU patronage reward funds.

## 7. Director's Report

Pete reported on enrollment for 2015-16, currently standing at 84 students.

Discussion followed.

### 7.1 Approve 2015-2016 School Calendar

We will adopt the ISD166-approved calendar, but will use 2 student days in December for professional development, resulting in 163 student contact days. The 2 extra professional development days will be an opportunity to improve and work on progress reports. Discussion about calendar changes. **Motion** by Kathryn, seconded by Mike, to approve the 2015-2016 calendar. All in favor.

### 7.2 Approve Lynx Long Term Leave Plan

Pete presented a proposal for the Lynx teacher to take a one year leave during FY16. A current paraprofessional with a teaching license is agreeable to taking the position for one year, and current teacher will return in FY17. Current teacher would work up to 10 days: at beginning and end of year for transition, as well as a few days of check-in during the year. **Motion** by Jeff, seconded by Kathryn, to approve the long term leave plan. Discussion about nature of long-term substitute position, and legal requirements of filling the job opening. All in favor.

## 8. Committee Report

### 8.2 Policy

#### 8.2.1 Bullying Prohibition Policy 2nd reading

#### 8.2.2 Crisis Management Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

There have been no changes since the first reading. No further suggestions were made at this meeting. The policies will be approved at the next meeting.

### 8.3 Board Development-Training, Parents

MACS is restructuring their board training, and will now come to schools in rural areas to present training if there are at least 6 people who will attend. GES will pay for their travel expenses.

Current parent roster is in the board development folder in the drop box. The Board must add a parent before adding another community member.

#### 8.4 Enrollment-Visit Day

Four families participated in the two visit days. Sara said the enrollment committee talked about the importance of getting new families in to the school while their children are young (age 3-4), by inviting them to events such as the plant sale, art fair, science fair and Friday morning assemblies.

#### 8.5 Facility-Aesthetics

There was a good turnout of parents and staff for the building walk-through on March 9. The group agreed that cleanliness, organization, and the kitchen are three areas that need to be addressed. Kathryn will report in more detail at the next meeting. Building and Grounds Committee co-chairs Mark Glasnapp and Jerry Starr met with Justin Pszwaro from the Great Expectations Foundation (GEF). Many to-do items have already been completed. Sara will talk to the Greenhouse committee about securing the building on weekends when they are working at school. Jerry is researching the cost of rekeying the building, to start fresh and implement a system of checking out keys.

#### 8.6 Personnel- Director Evaluation Plan

Jeff distributed a sample assessment. He plans to distribute the survey to parents next week. He will share results with Pete, the Board, and the GES community; and a personal development plan will be written.

#### 8.7 April Committee Meeting (Policy/Personnel/Finance Refresher?)

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### 9. Old Business

##### 9.1 School Lock-up Procedure Update

9.2 Retreat Task List – Tasks highlighted in red need a timeframe from the person whose name is listed next to it. Please look at this list in the drop box and update as needed.

#### 10. New Business

#### 11. Upcoming Actions

##### 11.1 Review next FY Technology Plan

A meeting will be held in mid-April to review and update the technology plan.

##### 11.2 Discipline Policy

This policy will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

##### 11.3 Director Evaluation

Kathryn suggested that we talk about and plan for graduation (May 29) at the next meeting. GEF has agreed to pay for graduation expenses.

#### 12. Check-out

##### 11.1 Meeting Survey

#### 13. Adjournment 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.

**TASK LIST:**

Report Training on Spreadsheet