

Great Expectations School

Growing Hearts and Minds, One Child at a Time

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School

Tuesday, March 19th, 2013, 4:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order/Welcome & Introductions- the meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm
Present: Allison Lowe, Sara Hingos, Mary Haussner, Susan Miller, Jon Hedstrom, Amanda Hand, Jeanne Smith
Also present: Amy Henrikson, Peter James
2. Reading of the Mission: Sara 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 5.3 MDE funding adjustment and 7.2 Board Development and 7.3 Tech Committee report. Mary seconded-- Ayes all.
4. Consent Agenda- Susan made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Mary seconded, ayes all.
5. Treasurer's Report-
 - 5.1 Allison reported on the loan program. Nothing has been advertised yet. The Finance committee has now written a cover letter in order to solicit participants to the loan program. Announcement of the program will go in the newsletter.
4:24pm Jeanne arrived
 - 5.2 Fund Balance Policy- 2nd reading-Allison read the Fund Balance aloud.
 - 5.3 Amy noticed that, due to an error at MDE, the endowment fund forecast was incorrect and did not come through at \$20,000, but rather \$2,000. Amy prepared a new budget to actual based on this and other new information. In essence, the changes would result in our fund balance at the end of the year being just 4.99 percent. If we suspended all field trips and related travel, we would be at 5.67% fund balance. The board discussed what to do. The Finance Committee will have to revise our budget. Look for that budget revision at the next meeting. The fundraising committee will also send out a letter soliciting donations.
6. Director's Report –Pete supplied a written report. 100% of current students reported they returning for next year. GES also has a significant waiting list of applicants. Tues April 2nd at 4:30 is the drawing for the open slots and waiting list. Jeanne will be the person to take names out of the hat. Regarding staff retention- Pete will be preparing letters inviting staff back and Pete will work with Personnel Committee to make additional recommendations to the board.
7. Committee Reports -

7.1 Safety Committee-provided a written report- The committee described a need for upgraded front entrance visibility. The committee wants to move towards the ability to lock the door easily and quickly. The committee discussed the use of walkie talkies or cell phones. Lastly, there is a need for updating the emergency plan and documentation.

7.2 Board Development- Tom has missed nearly all the board meetings since his appointment (coming to only 1.5 meetings thus far). The board discussed how to address the situation and considered adding a parent in his place.

7.3 Technology Committee- Given the unanticipated financial crunch, the Technology Committee recommended buying only 2 i-Pads this year. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of e-text books. A volunteer may help write a grant to get i-Pads into the classroom. Some of our laptops are not going to work for testing next year. Kirk and Jon will streamline the wireless access. Amy made a spreadsheet of the website development and hosting options. Boreal Access has the best service and the board agreed to use Boreal for these services.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 2013 Goals: the board voted to focus on the top four goals, with the rest possibly becoming committee goals.

8.2 Director Evaluation- The Personnel Committee will put out a survey via SurveyMonkey to get input from the staff.

9. New Business-

9.1 Academic Evaluation Results- In spite of our positive results, Pete expressed frustration at how academic success is being measured, both by the state and ACNW. Pete briefly discussed how we assess growth differently in the classrooms, and expressed concern that these measures were not reflected in the purely standardized test-based measures these organizations use. Next month when Chuck Speiker visits, we can talk about how we can work with Audubon to define our academic goals and appropriate measurement tools.

10. Adjournment- Jon moved to adjourn. Mary seconded at 6:02 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.