

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

**Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School**  
**Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 4:00 p.m.**

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

Sara called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

Present: Sara Hingos, Mary Haussner, Allison Plummer, Jeff Kern, Jeanne Smith at 4:55

Also present: Amy Henrikson, Peter James, Clara Weitz

2. Reading of the Mission: Mary 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 Allison, seconded by Jeff, to approve the agenda. Remove 4.2 Review Expenditures from agenda. Next month we will review July and August. Add June 27th special meeting minutes. Ayes all.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approve Minutes from June 17, 2014 Meeting and June 27, 2014 Special Meeting

4.2 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

Approval of Consent Agenda: **Motion** by Mary, seconded by Allison, to approve. Corrections: Cost of math curriculum is \$6,400. Change spelling of roll. Ayes all.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Audit & Tax Return Agreement

5.2 Conflict of Interest Signatures

5.3 CMERDC Renewal

5.4 Set Mileage Rate

Allison reported that the Finance Committee met on July 9th. Amy was still working on the FY14 final figures. They looked at the bleak financial forecast for the upcoming year, and talked about ways to bring in more income via grants and/or cuts to the budget.

Pete reported that the Foundation is working on an appeal to alumni families and past donors for donations. Nina Simonowicz is spearheading that effort, and will be meeting

with the GEF Board and Pete on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be sought for immediate needs such as new chrome books, and they will also discuss the bigger picture – having a consistent influx of money for the school.

McERDC (company that does payroll and state paperwork) is keeping the cost at \$550 per month and \$750 for audit prep. **Motion** by Allison, seconded by Jeff, to renew the contract with McERDC. Ayes all.

The mileage reimbursement rate is currently 40 cents per mile when teachers travel to training and conferences. Pete recommends staying at that rate. **Motion** by Jeff, seconded by Mary, to pay 40 cents per mile for mileage reimbursement. Ayes all.

Amy showed the Board an email from the auditors explaining their increased fees. They cited their own increased salary costs, and the cost of lodging on the North Shore in summer as their reasons for the increase. **Motion** by Allison, seconded by Mary, to approve the Audit and Tax Return Agreement. Ayes all.

6. Director's Report: Pete reported on summer tasks being completed, the need for volunteers to help with maintenance and cleaning, budget concerns, and the new agreement with the YMCA for student and staff memberships. Please see the Director's Report for complete details.

Jeff suggested putting out a sign to advertise the kindergarten openings. Mary will ask Dave Woerheide about making a sign that will say "Openings for Fall."

Jeanne Smith arrived at 4:55.

7. Committee Report
  - 7.1 Board Self Evaluation

Pete offered to compile results of the survey. The questions will cover areas that need development, both as individual members and as a Board. It will also be a tool to identify what types of new members are needed. Are there gaps between where we are now and our goal, and is it important to bridge that gap? Sara will email the survey to everyone in an Excel format; print, complete and return the questionnaire to Pete by August 11th.

Jeff's status will be changed from parent to community member. This results in an opening for a parent on the board, which should be filled before the November annual meeting. We will use the survey as a tool to fill the opening.

8. Old Business
9. New Business

Current GEF Board members: Kristen Blomberg, Beth Ferry, Erica Hahn, Hartley Acero, Brienne Moody, Justin Pszwaro, Jan Healy.

The lunch coordinator position has not been filled. Sara suggested sending out an email to recruit.

10. Upcoming actions for August: new hires. There will be one new hire, a paraprofessional.

11. Adjournment

**Motion** by Jeff, seconded by Mary, to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 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 15 minutes prior to each meeting. We invite you to share your ideas, suggestions, and concerns with our hosts during this time.