

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

Regular School Board Meeting at Great Expectations School
Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

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

Sara Hingos called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Present: Sara Hingos, Allison Plummer, Jeff Kern, Sue Butter, Mary Haussner, Jeanne Smith. Absent: Jackie Dillenbeck

Also present: Peter James, Amy Henrikson, Clara Weitz

2. Reading of the Mission: Allison 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 Mary, seconded by Sue, to approve the agenda, with the addition of 6.1 Approval of Replacing Staff Member. Ayes all

4. Consent Agenda

Motion by Sue, seconded by Allison, to approve the consent agenda. Ayes all.

4.1 Approve Minutes from August 28, 2014 Meeting

4.1 Review Expenditures and Fund Transfers

5. Treasurer's Report: Allison reported that the Finance Committee met Sept. 15th and reviewed adjusted figures for FY14. The final year-end figure is a \$7,100 net loss, after the adjustment to correct for Special Ed funding.

6. Director's Report: Pete reported on the following items.

- Work completed at the school by volunteers over the summer.
- Parent Nights were well attended on both nights.
- With fewer paraprofessionals this year, teachers are helping to cover lunch and recess duty.
- Parent survey results so far show satisfaction with the school; there is a wide range of opinions regarding technology in the classroom.
- World's Best Workforce training from Audubon was helpful. The October 1st reporting deadline for WBWR and Annual Report was extended, so the report will be approved at the October board meeting.
- Otters will be selling Wolf Ridge calendars to help fund next year's class trip.

6.1 Approval of replacing staff member. A paraprofessional in the Wolves classroom is leaving. **Motion** by Jeff, seconded by Allison, to approve the replacement of the paraprofessional. Ayes all.

7. Committee Report

7.1 Board Self Evaluation: The responses identified areas of strengths and weaknesses in the board. The weak areas are generally about follow-through and completing tasks.

7.2 Board Configuration: There are five open spots on the Board for 2014-15. Sara suggested trying to recruit retired people who would have more time, and young parents who have children that may be coming to GES in the future.

Policy review is the most urgent job that needs to be completed. Not having complete, updated policies leaves the school at risk. Mary volunteered to take a look at the policies. Jeff suggested putting more resources towards the tasks that aren't getting done, as well as having a board retreat or workday to focus on updating the policies.

Another option is to have more than one meeting per month; the second meeting each month would be a working meeting/workshop day. Pete suggested having all committees meet at the same time for a work session rather than making it an optional meeting, and it was agreed to schedule it on the first Tuesday of each month.

Mary said that she will continue to be Secretary. A treasurer is needed - s/he chairs the Finance Committee, reviews bank statements and reconciliations, is responsible for signing off on certain items, and needs to understand school finance.

7.3 Parent Survey: General trends are positive regarding staff and services. There is some (12%) dissatisfaction with the facilities. Communications – high satisfaction. Food – mostly happy, but parents would like more variety and availability of snacks and breakfast for purchase. Parents indicated that serving organic food is very important. The answers to technology questions are quite varied.

8. Old Business

8.1 World's Best Workforce:

The WBWF/Annual Report is not completed. The deadline for submission has been changed to allow the board to approve it at our October board meeting prior

to sending it to ACNW and posting it to our website. A brief summary of the report must be sent to MDE by 12/1/14.

8.2 Audubon Retreat 11/13-11/14 (Th & Fri): Audubon will pay for 3 people to attend. Sara and Pete will go, and possibly one educator.

9. New Business

9.1 Approve Annual Report (postponed until October)

10. Upcoming Actions

10.1 Review Bylaws: they are in the Board Packet. **Assignment** – everyone read the bylaws and come to the next meeting with any changes. They were last reviewed in September 2013.

10.2 Set Graduation Date

11. Adjournment

Motion by Jeff, seconded by Mary, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 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.