

Granite State Arts Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 19th, 2015

Granite State Arts Academy nurtures creative thinkers, active citizens, and independent learners with a curriculum that integrates the arts and academics. Our Vision is a high school that is dedicated to the arts. It will appeal to a broad cross section of students who are looking to discover the joy and transformational power of the arts and those interested in pursuing the arts in a professional setting. Our academic courses will strive to instill a sincere lifelong desire to learn. Students will explore real world problems, simultaneously developing cross-curriculum skills while working in small collaborative groups. During their time at GSAA students will attend art classes each day and will study at least two of the following studies: Dance, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. This will allow for personalized learning, creating conditions where students' talents can flourish. This positive approach to educating will empower students to dream and create every day.

Meeting called to order @ 6:13 pm

Attendees: Ken Dunne, Mark Bograd, Don Erdbrink, Melanie Holden, Kate Russell

Excused: Scott Mullane, Amy Sevigney, Judy David

Chair's Report:

Motion to approve minutes from Oct 27th, 2015 meeting was made by Kate Russell and seconded by Ken Dunne. Motion passed.

Don Erdbrink discussed the fact that GSAA needs a Vice Chairman for the Board. He has discussed this with and nominated Ken Dunne. Melanie Holden made a motion to approve Ken Dunne as Vice-Chair of the Board and Kate Russell seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Don Erdbrink attended a Charter School Facility Funding webinar, which was set up by Matt Southerton. Don reports the following as pertinent to GSAA:

- o Lack of facilities is a major obstacle to growth
- o Borrowing is hindered because the length of the loans exceeds the charter term for renewal.
- o Ownership of property is allowed but most long-term borrowers will not loan to a charter until they have been in existence 5 years.
- o Best scenario for newer and smaller charters is long term leasing

- o Empty sites in school districts should be offered to charters first before other uses but often districts will re-purpose sites and the charter ends up having to move.
- o Think in terms of cost not just being money. A bad building in a poor location will cost you students.
- o Structural constraints of building will impact future options for growth
- o Leases can be to own if owner is agreeable and is looking to sell the location down the line.
- o Small schools should expect to spend 10%- 20% of revenues on facility.
- o Long-term lease is GSAA best option at this point.

The Operating Protocols were discussed but it was decided to table the vote due to changes needing to be made to some of the language. Don Erdbrink will be meeting with the GSAA attorney to discuss the language and will report back.

Mark Bograd discussed that the lunchtime detentions are not working. Students are not taking them seriously. To correct this the following will be instituted:

- o Detentions will be held after school on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- o Students will be asked to help around the school during detention.
- o If a student skips a detention they will be given a second detention.
- o If both detentions are skipped the student will be given an out of school suspension.

Page 12 of the student handbook has been amended to reflect this code of conduct change. Ken Dunne made a motion to accept Mark's changes to the Student Handbook and Melanie Holden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Bograd shared concerns about the trip to Paris after the events of last Friday. Mr. Abernathy who is coordinating the trip using an outside company not affiliated with GSAA. The company is responsive to returning money if there are events that warrant refunds such as safety. GSAA is not directly sponsoring this trip but has curriculum tied to it. GSAA will advise parents and student not to go if there is a travel advisory. 8 students are currently signed up for the Paris trip.

Mark Bograd stated that there are currently 17 students that require a civics course to graduate. 6 are seniors and 11 are juniors. It was discussed that GSAA either needs to hire a civics teacher or students need to be motivated to taking the course on VLACS. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting so the full Board can address the possibility of hiring a

teacher can be discussed at the next scheduled meeting. Mark was going to reach out to a possible candidate.

Don Erdbrink discussed that the Board should start to think about the building on Keewayden Drive. This site is a possible location should the school have to move next year which seems likely. This would help in preparing for the Board's Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for January 9th. Items to consider for the Keewayden location include:

A quote to expand the bathroom -- Mark Bograd researched and found GSAA would need two more toilets in each of the bathrooms to accommodate the 160 students we could possibly reach.

- o A plumber needs to be sourced and it
- o Home Depot be approached to possibly donate the materials
- o The fire regulations needed for the door swings in classrooms
- o An assessment of painting needs
- o An assessment of furniture needs

Melanie Holden discussed the Afterschool program status. She requested an advertising budget amount to promote the programs and create physical materials. The marketing plan is nearly completed but will require the advertising budget to be decided.

- o Contract with LPM to be finalized this week. Don Erdbrink meeting with Jay from LPM Tuesday at the school.
- o Teacher packets are completed and will include items GSAA requires such as any forms for the school. Their fingerprinting, information on them and their classes. This will be sent in email form and returned to Melanie.
- o It is estimated that GSAA will earn \$7500 from the program, not including winter / summer camps.
- o Working to schedule a class with cartoonist Mark Bennett
- o Secured a photography class with Katlyn O'Hara
- o Secured a dance class with Amanda Ledoux
- o Possible December workshop in the works for PSA (Positive Street Arts)
- o Project plan for January completed

- o Project plan for the spring, summer and fall semesters beginning.

Feedback was received from a number of parents regarding the choice Brave New World by Aldus Huxley, which is currently being read by Mr. Abernathy's 10th grade class. Don Erdbrink did an informal survey of about 20 schools and it is on the reading list of about half as a 10th grade reading selection. After feedback from Mark Bograd the Board deferred to the decision made by him and Mr. Abernathy. Don Erdbrink suggested that GSAA create a reading list that will be posted on the website of books that will be read by each grade as it seemed many other school do so. This would include all books, videos and film so students and parents can review the list. A summer reading list will also be posted. Mr. Bograd agreed.

Head of School Report

Culture and Climate:

- Official National Honor Society school – Jenna McMahon is the NHS Advisor. We are creating a Faculty Council to adopt the by-laws and create a process to select NHS members.
- Student Council members were elected a couple of weeks ago. They have been meeting weekly with Frank Sharlow as the Advisor
- Cleanliness is still an issue. We are going to use Advisory time at least once a month to supplement the cleaning company.

Curriculum

- Kim Carter continues to work with the teachers.
- We are looking at our courses to have more rigor based on information from a recent student who left because the academics were “too easy” and another student who almost left because of the same reason. So students will see more asked of them as the year goes on.
- We are currently working on second semester schedules. We are still short a class or two so we may still have to have a study hall in the computer lab that hasn't worked because of lack of coverage. A message went out to parents looking for anyone who could teach a class from 8-9:30 in anything.

Facilities

- New lunch vending machine a hit.
- We made \$256.26 in October for the 2 machines on the 2nd floor

Staff

- I would like to hire the 1 person who I had interviewed back in October for the part-time Math teacher for second semester. She is the only one who has responded to our ad. We put it in Jobsinnh.com, our website. She is capable, although it will be her first job, but everyone had a first job.
- 3 of 7 Formal Observations have been completed. The last 4 will be done in the next 2 weeks. As always, I do a 3 minute walk through once or twice a day.

Enrollment and Outreach

- We currently have 103 students
- 106 students was the number for the state adequacy report, 1 left because the academics didn't challenge her, 1 left because he missed his friends, and 1 left because he needed more Special Ed supports that we couldn't give him.
- We have a potential of 1 student coming after Thanksgiving and another 1 or 2 second semester
- We have our first Informational Day on Saturday December 5th from 10-12. This has been advertised on our Website and will also send out in other avenues.

Budget: Don Erdbrink -- The budget is doing well. The latest adequacy money came in earlier than expected. The school is on track to be able to pay all payroll, rent and bills thru spring. Money should be raised to help with the potential move to Keewayden.

Fundraising: Renia Radziszewski

We are actively working on a way to drive home the importance of the family pledge, the gala and art fees. We spoke about this at Tuesdays Fundraising meeting. We do not currently have a draft but we feel it has to be broken down into either monthly or weekly amounts apparently the 1,250 is a lot higher than all the other charters apparently families have been researching this?

It is suggested that we do a tiered donation of \$1250 / \$750 / \$500 / \$300. This would allow different levels of giving that might help more families be able to take part. It should also be made clear that donations can take the form of time and skills offered to GSAA.

Gala planning is on track thanks to Deb Zambello. The paperwork for the Poker Night non profit donation is proceeding.

Ken Dunne made a motion to go into closed session as per RSA 91-A: 3 11 (A-J)

Closed session ended 9:15

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 1st at 6pm.

Adjourn at 9:36