

Granite State Arts Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 12, 2016

Attendance: Amy Sevigny, Don Erdbrink, Mark Bograd, Kate Russell, Ken Dunne, Judy David (on the phone), Melanie Holden (on the phone)

Guest: MaryJo Conlon (parent), Renia Radziszewski, Kianna Schofield (student), Paul Schofield (parent), Kristy Schofield (parent), Katherin O'Brien (parent), Mike Conlon (parent)

Call to order: 6:05 pm

Public Comment:

- Parent Kristi S. spoke regarding recent emails she has sent regarding volunteerism- She feels there is a need for a volunteer coordinator. States there has been some confusion regarding Ren faire volunteers and other volunteer opportunities.
- Kianna S. (student) spoke- regarding concerns of recent "yearbook/photography" class - lack of supervision, involvement, perhaps the misuse or unwillingness to potential volunteers.
- Paul S. (parent) - spoke regarding the unique environment that the charter school presents to encourage parents to volunteer. A large wealth of the community that's unique to this school- should be utilized.
- Kristi S. offered to look into the role of volunteer coordinator- develop some ground work for a this type of program.
- Don spoke regarding multiple email coorespondences from Kristi S.- regarding move for next year and rent. Don explained the fact that we have outgrown this building and the rent #'s that our current landlord is presenting. Also spoke regarding RSA 189 14-A regarding staff. Don also spoke of email from Kristi regarding lack of PTA- this was attempted last year. Kristi will look into this.
- Kianna (student)- spoke the need for everyone to to be entitled to their own opinions - please be respectful of that
- Katerine (parent)- spoke regarding news of recent legislation for potential tax break. She stated that there are many factors to this.
- Paul S. - thank you to the board for hearing their concerns
- Discussion regarding new cell phone policy- petition started by students regarding concerns- Petition read by student Kianna- this petition was signed by 39 students.
 - Krisit S. stated that she sent an email regarding this policy
 - Kianna spoke regarding this- she states that having her phone available is a comfort of sorts. She spoke that she feels there should be a more strict anti bullying policy in place. She stated that taking away music on their phones is difficult for students in an art based school.
 - Kristi S. stated that phones are being used for much more than phones.

- Mark spoke to this recent policy change. Spoke that because of privacy laws all forms of discipline to other students can not be discussed. Mr. Bograd stated that this policy came from a minority of students being disrespectful to staff regarding phone use and a few episodes of cyberbullying. Mark spoke regarding petition- he was very pleased that this has created an open dialog that has resulted from it. Mark would like to discuss this with the board and revise or modify as appropriate to balance these issues (discipline/vs using phone for other uses (comfort, calculator). Mark reinforced that there has been suspensions and discipline but because of privacy laws these can not be discussed.
- Paul S. spoke that he felt we should not have a blanket policy.
- MaryJo (parent)- spoke that the students feel that the students that have not violated rules feel that they are the ones being punished.
- Don concluded the cell phone discussion and that we will continue to explore this and look at revising cell phone policy.
- 7:05pm the schofield family excused themselves from the meeting- other guests remained.

Chair's Report (15 mins)

- Don discussed moving meeting dates to Tuesday's in the future
- At this point- 7:06pm- Ken Dunne stepped up to run the meeting and he reviewed Robert's Rule of orders
- Approval of Minutes: 4/19/16, 4/27/16, and 5/6/16- Kate made a motion to approve- seconded by Don and approved by all. Amy will send to Renia for posting
- Landlord update- Don had a meeting with Joe F. last week- he is still reviewing the lease for potential new building and will get back to us asap.
- Curriculum Development- Mark, Don and Melanie met last week to review where we are with Kim C. (competence based advisor)- the staff is meeting with Kim next week- Melanie to observe. The staff have created a picture of what a GSAA graduate will look like- individual subject areas have created what each class looks like (aligned with state standards)- this process is well developed and ongoing. Grading under this system is also being explored. Plan for further work on this over the summer
- Fundraising- Don discussed ongoing grant applications that Denise Sharlow is exploring
- Handbook revisions- discussed above cell phone policy. Overall handbooks will receive updates. Acceptable use policy to be added regarding computer use.
- Veronica Harris (family member)of a student would like to join the board (potentially) - she is available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings

Head of School Report -- Mark

- Class selection- This process will begin tomorrow during advisory. The incoming 9th grade students/new students have been provided with these forms. This information will then be analyzed by power school and schedules will be created
- 11th grade NECAP testing tomorrow May 13th
- Senior sign out sheet has been created to determine graduation eligibility. Each student is meeting with guidance.
- Student council has raised >\$1000 during events thus far- gap and gown rentals for the seniors have been covered. They will also cover costs of graduation and 3 yearbooks for students that are not able to afford them
- Ren faire was very successful last weekend- and is running again this weekend. GSAA is a charity of choice for this faire. Our students, parents and staff are involved with this. Thank you to Mr. Viau, the volunteers and the student performers!

Budget Committee Report

- Operating budget reviewed - bank balances reviewed. No issues identified at this time.

Fundraising Update –

- Ren Faire- We have been notified that we have been chosen as a charity of choice and will be receiving \$ from the auction. This information was shared on WMUR- this will be shared on our facebook page
- Don and Denise have been in contact- Denise has developed a list of items needed to apply for other grants.
 - Strategic plan- we have this
 - Audit- we have this
 - 100% participation of board- financially - we have this
 - Organizational self assessment- Don will get more clarification on this.
 - Consistent program results
 - Solid strategic plan- Melanie states that this is being reviewed
 - Solid staff leadership
 - Active fundraising
 - Sound fiscal spending policy
- Mary Jo (parent)- spoke that volunteers here at GSAA have been solid, but that it tends to be the same group. She supports the volunteer coordinator role
- The Conlon family left @ 7:30 pm
- Katherine O'Brien - she is a State Representative and a parent here at GSAA. She presented a bill regarding busing- this is an ongoing discussion in the NH legislation.

Closed Session

- Kate made a motion to go into closed section based on RSA 910 A:1-3@ 7:34pm
- Return to open session- 8:00 pm
- Next meeting- Tuesday May 24th- @ 6pm
- Kate made a motion to end meeting- seconded by Amy and approved by all 8:05 pm