



Granite State Arts Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 13, 2018

Attendance: Frank Sharlow, Jeff Marquis, Tony Polito, Alison Gangler, Paula Trout, Don Erdbrink, Robin Calitri, Michelle Barrow, Jamie McFarland

Called to order: 5:05pm

- Public Comment – None
- Approval of Minutes from Last meeting: One change in point #4 for the amount of the deposit refund. Mr. Marquis made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from October 9th. Ms. Trout seconded the motion. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

1. A discussion was held on the findings of the Treasurer's report.

HoS Report:

1. Update on Theater Arts and Science positions:
 - There were an overwhelming number of applicants for Theater Arts position. About 10 or 12 applicants were invited to the school and they had a tour and meeting with the other teachers. The applicants gave presentations to the students of what they've done, why they want the job. Nine applicants will be coming back for further interviews. Science position applicants were fewer but those who applied are highly qualified. They will be coming to observe Ms. G.'s classes. Mr. Polito has been pleased with the quality of the applicants.
2. NHDOE visit on 11/13:
 - Sessions were all day on 11/13/18. They will be coming to the school for the renewal visit on 1/22/19. There will be two parts to the visits: one for the building and one for the charter and mission. Also, coursework and curriculum will be part of the schedule for the visit on 1/22/19. Board members can also attend.
3. Update on Faculty:
 - Recruitment
 - Hiring: the challenges of hiring remain that even though there are many applicants, the difficulties of working with the lack of state funding and challenges of providing health insurance and retirement funds.

- Professional development: this is important for the faculty to be able to continue professional development both for professional as well as personal reasons. This is important also to continue the mission of the school charter. In the future, it will be necessary to plan for adequate funding to be able to offer possibilities of attending courses.
- Retention: this is not an issue at this point and the school currently has a talented and gifted faculty. The goal is to keep this as we move forward.

Chair's Report:

1. Auditor's report: Adequacy will be coming in soon. The total due the school for Art Fees has come down. Some accounts are now setup to pay the fees on an automatic schedule which will help. New student will be starting tomorrow.
2. Student numbers: 120 NH students are currently attending; 7 MA students are attending. The banner is now hanging at the mall and this will help visibility of the school in the community. Outreach is going well. It might be a good idea to ask perspective students, "how did you hear about us?" when visiting.
3. Fundraising needs to continue. The board also discussed the most advantageous manner of handling the loans and accounts to benefit the school funding.
4. 403-B plans: additional discussions were held about costs to the school, and how to set up the plan to the advantage of the participants which will help potentially increase retention. Mr. Paul Landry will come help set up the participants.
 - Ms. Trout made a motion to implement the 403-B plan as presented. Ms. Barrow seconded the motion; all approved; motion carried.

Strategic Plan Discussion:

In the renewal of the charter, the school must have a strategic plan. The Department of Education would like that there is a strategic plan and the governing and operational parts of schools make a set of goals for the school year. Mr. Polito described that he created a strategic plan for the school; board also needs to create one with action plan from January to January that contains priorities, and goals from board's perspective. When we meet with DOE, they will have HoS and Board's plans to be used to bring to fruition the school's charter.

- Goals for the Board: recruitment, retention, finances, maintenance of building, long term financial stability of school, hire the head of the school recruit faculty,
- Mr. Erdbrink and the Board also began a discussion about the need to update the school's technology, including computers in the classrooms, laptops, cameras and security systems for the entrance, and the intercom system to communicate with all classrooms.

- The board discussed that this initiative will require fundraising and planning to be able to accomplish the goals.

Action item: Mr. Sharlow will create a survey for all faculty to gather the technology needs of the faculty.

Focus moving forward:

- Technology: Computers for Teachers, Music Lab, Intercom System, Entrance Security system.
- Admissions: To invest in increasing the number of students. The board also discussed that if a Marketing initiative is added to the budget, the school will have more presence in the community, and as a result, increasing the number of students enrolled.
- Curriculum: The board discussed increasing offerings in the Arts curriculum and possibly hiring an additional staff position in the arts courses. Mr. Polito: has a good idea of what curriculum changes are needed to continue to grow and develop the school.

Additional point on a financial perspective: 3 or 4 spokes

- Reach out to sending districts with campaign to get local district funding over time*.
- Financial development campaign, public funding, private funding, other fundraising initiative.
- Developing an endowment, foundation (501C3) or a Trust which is more flexible, less formal; or 3rd option: individual donors which is where we are now (parents, staff, friends of school) but not big donations.
- Proposal of increasing the GSAA Charter to include the 8th grade which would increase state aid and allow a deeper development over a 5-year period. This will be further discussed when renewing the Charter and requires that the Board asks the Board of Education of NH to amend the charter.
- This initiative to be placed on the BOT agenda in December for a vote.

*Regarding the first point above: Mr. Polito learned that other Charter schools in the state receive money from sending districts because they educate students that would not normally flourish in the public-school system. He requested that the board investigates this option for additional funding to the school, working with the sending district school board, budget sub-committees, and to superintendent of the sending districts. This initiative starts by establishing the relationship, showing the advantages of GSAA to the sending schools.

Mr Calitri made a motion to approve the HoS Action Plan for the Strategic plan including goals and timeline for the school. Mr. Marquis seconded the motion. All approved, the motion was carried.

Any new business for next meeting:

- Mr Calitri had questions about IB presentations from Ms. Peterson's IB course experience over the summer and asked for additional information.

Action Item: Mr. Calitri, Mr. Polito and Ms. Peterson will schedule a meeting to discuss this further.

Going into Closed session as per RSA 91A:3(A-J) 7:53pm

Mr. McFarland made a motion to accept Deborah Richards request of \$3508.75 payment for facilities management over the 2018 summer months

Ms. Trout seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was carried.

Adjournment: at 7:57pm, Mr. Calitri made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded; all approved.