



Granite State Arts Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 09, 2018

Attendance: Leah Rogers, Don Erdbrink, Tony Polito, Jeff Marquis, Alison Gangler, Frank Sharlow, Michelle Barrow, Jaime McFarland, Renia Radziszewski

Called to order: 6:10

- Public Comment – None
- Approval of Minutes from last meeting: Mr. Marquis made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from September 11th. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

Chair's Report:

1. Fundraising – Gala Committee Update and Discussion:
 - The committee discussed sponsorship tiers and added a few levels. Currently, there is one platinum and 2 gold categories, but the group discussed adding additional sponsorships for the Platinum and Gold levels.
 - They also discussed donation amounts, where any amount is accepted. A target goal for the Gala was discussed and Ms. Radziszewski suggested setting a goal of \$40,000-45,000; the question was also raised whether to set a sponsorship goal.
 - The location for the Gala seats 500 people and other years about 195 people attended. The group discussed that 200-300 tickets will need to be sold in order to meet the 40K goal. Ms. Rogers suggested a goal of 250-300 tickets with an aggregate net goal of 40K. The ticket price of \$60 per person was suggested with no reduction for purchase of couples, but instead providing a discount for purchase of the seats of an entire table.
 - Art work by 3rd parties will be donated for sale and student artwork will also be available as well as other donations. Music will be provided either by a live band or DJ to be decided by the committee.
2. Parent Outreach:
 - Ms. Barrow spoke with Mrs. McMahon who suggested a 'Dance Mom' who would have a list of parents to call for requesting donations or help in getting supplies. Each of the arts would have a parent who works with the teacher to reach out to parents and request supplies or help with class needs. Also, promote the Amazon list wish for each teacher.
 - Mr. Polito asked whether the board would consider using parents to chaperone on trips or help with showcase events and other events.

- Mr. Polito suggested speaking with the faculty first to determine what their needs are. To follow up at faculty meeting. The group discussed whether to use a Go-Fund-Me or to actually get the supplies and bring them.

3.Enrollment Update:

- One student starts 10/10/18; the total number of students is 125.
- A School Outreach letter will be going out to other schools in the area, providing background of what the school is about, goals, its mission. Mr. Polito mentioned that the questions on the outreach surveys to visitors will use points from the Mission.
- Ms. Radziszewski mentioned that the school is invited to Micro Society Charter School in Nashua to generate more interest in GSAA in November.

4.Brooks Security Deposit Return:

- As of Nov., the 24 months period stated in the lease will be complete and school receives \$10K back from the deposit and then in the future another \$10K will be returned to the school. A discussion followed about amounts of rent and building costs. The school will receive the first \$10K this December.

5. Retirement Plan for Faculty:

- The faculty are eligible to participate in the NH State retirement plan program which is different from what the school was originally told. They are also eligible to participate in the state health program for teachers. The investment program to save for retirement was discussed with management fees, cost to the school and any annual costs, as well as the number of teachers who are interested in participating. Questions were raised about matching from the school and when that would begin.
- A time will be determined when a representative will come to the school so that teachers can sign up for the plan. There are also still some questions whether a different plan would be better than the state plan, considering contributions, returns and vesting. There will be a meeting on 10/17 with Micro Society Charter school about the retirement plan and health plan.

6. Strategic plan to review:

- Mr. Polito discussed the strategic plan handout from the last meeting. The group reviewed that faculty comes up with the academic goals and the board comes up with the goals for the finances and funding. Mr. Polito discussed the need to lead the school through the academic plan, mission, curriculum, professional development where the Board is responsible for financial planning, building needs, fund raising, needs which are different from academic goals. The plan should be re-evaluated each year and see how well it is working or if changes are needed.
- Board then needs to sign off on the projected goals for the academic/board overall plan and set aside 2-3 hours to discuss whether plan has been reviewed and proposed changes which are needed. There will be 2 sessions planned: first to discuss and second, action items. The group recommended a date when board can meet to discuss: 2 months prior to visit of NH School

Board. The NH School Board would like to see the following: date, agenda, minutes and action plan. This meeting is planned for November 13th, at 5:00 pm

- A discussion was also held with a Focus on Finance, building, technology, fundraising, Teacher laptops need upgrading; the iMac OS are from 2009 and can't be upgraded, etc.

7. Treasurers Report:

- Ms. Radziszewski and Mr. Marquis went over the treasurer's report. The fundraising goals of the Gala and other events were discussed. The number of students is lower than desired, and the school is looking to increase the number of students enrolled. Further discussion on student enrollment numbers was held. Other discussions included fundraising goals from the two major events, the Gala and the Poker Room evening which will both be held in 2019. There is a continued goal of raising the payments of ACH fees, with the suggestions on how to improve the rate of payments.

HoS Report:

- Mr. Polito discussed the Head of School Report, asking if there were any questions. Other point discussed included the upcoming open house events, 10/11 and 11/08. The scheduled visit by the state is slated for January but the actual date hasn't yet been scheduled. The Questionnaire for the board is to be completed by that date.
- The school will be having the Intercultural week, Feb. 19-22, 2019 and the focus will be Native Americans. There will be more details to follow.
- Help is needed on Fridays to cover the front desk.
- Mr. Polito recommended a change to the school charter: to admit 8th graders. There are sixteen students interested in attending the school for the next academic year. This proposal would not cause any scheduling issue, nor require additional staff. The benefits of making this change would allow students to concentrate in the arts over a five-year period. Additionally, this would increase the base for future students for the school. The change would also be positive for the culture of the school. This will be discussed further at the strategic planning meeting with the information sent to the NH Board of Education before the visit in January.

Teacher questions and concerns:

Mr Sharlow, the teacher representative, reported that the faculty is waiting for updates on the proposals for a retirement plan.

Adjournment: at 7:47pm, Ms. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Ms. Barrows; all approved.