

**Granite State Arts Academy**  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
May 14th, 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.*

**PRESENT: AMY SEVIGNY, STEPHANIE LIBBY, DON ERDBRINK, RENE MARTINEZ (STAFF BOT REP.), MELANIE HOLDEN, MARK BOGRAD, KATE RUSSELL (ON CALL), SCOTT MULLANE, JENNIFER MINICUCCI**

**EXCUSED: NONE**

**GUEST: BARBARA DESHAIES (PARENT), MARY JO CONLON (PARENT), PAUL SEVIGNY**

- **Mission read by Don**
- Opening Public Comment – Don explained rules to guests based on rules. Will have open comments at end as well.
  - Paul Sevigny- suggested that in order for the school to succeed that the parents, board, and staff. We should have 100% of participation by now to meet the goal outlined in the parent meeting. We need all parts of the community to be actively involved. Don thanked Paul and informed the audience that he will communicate with families tomorrow.
  - Melanie will formulate a starting point to share with Rene and Mark for teacher/staff reach out.
  - Barbara suggested that some are not able to contribute and we must be careful not to offend.
  - Stephanie Libby suggested momentum needs to continue over the summer.
- Approval of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes – Tabled until next week so that board members can review
- Chair's Report
  - Brooks Properties update- Don spoke with Joe F. by email- still in negotiations – Don did stress the urgency to them. Don suggested that a possible fundraiser targeted at Brooks. Kate suggested that perhaps they become a sponsor. Possible elective course for event

center assistance. Don and Mark will work on this. 99 fundraiser could focus on this. All future fundraising will focus on a portion to them.

- Klein Property Information – Scott and Melanie discussed- had potential; a lot of work would be needed. Very few windows. Could only get 5 classes with windows at this time. Walls would need to be built and removed, all cement floors. It was a former light manufacturing build. No cost updates (utilities, cam fees) at this time except \$5.50 per sq/feet. Melanie suggested not viable, Jennifer said not ideal but could be doable. Nice art spaces. Small offices (would be difficult to make classrooms out of these)- 2 miles from here (beneficial for current families and staff). Jennifer suggested that we should keep the conversation going- information about needed space was sent by Jennifer.
- Jennifer emailed and left messages for a possible contact with SCS building (Stratham).

#### Treasurer's Report

- Scott has no updates. Mark will update on bank accounts below  
P&L -- Matt's Projection – was sent
- Fundraising Report – 2 more grants out there waiting to hear. 2 have denied. Fisher Cat's tickets we have broken even- profit ongoing (advertising). Wrap up from go fund me- possibly give student art- Stephanie will wrap this up. Fathers day raffle upcoming. Derry Memorial day parade- late for the deadline. Nashua arts festival- Stephanie will reach out, Pelham home days- Melanie will reach out, Scott mentioned Hampstead summer nights. Concord arts market- Saturday's in the summer. Crowd funding- Stephanie presented a graph of all options- to open up with the announcement of the school opening (as soon as we have an answer from Brook's). Scott suggested that we do this internally through our own website etc. Melanie suggested that we add some charter school funding information- right at the donate now button. Possible 9-hole tournament at Brook stone (as above with possible sponsorship). Stephanie is still working on the NH poker room. Stephanie will continue to reach out to possible donors/contacts.
- Scott and Stephanie visited the PACE organization (\$110 for membership)- can come out of grant. Melanie made a motion to get a membership to PACE through grant money, seconded by Jennifer and approved by all.
- Head of School's Report
  - Mark presented what tasks need to be done through June 12<sup>th</sup>- Last week of school will be exams. Report cards will need to be done (after May 29<sup>th</sup>) and sent home, copies signed and sealed to make them official (not available in our current software), end of year state report, cumulative files for those students transferring (each student has a cumulative file already created), communication with new students, payroll, grant, service vendors that are used for school year only (food, vending machine)
  - Payroll was paid Tuesday- through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. As of today \$3,584.75 in current accounts- grant \$7,861.67 and paypal \$1,212.80 to be transferred. Owe from grant \$2138.25 for services and supplies to various people, owe Pearson for books \$3264.75. Leaves \$7, 256.27. We owe \$16,000 in bills plus rent.

- Enrollment – 5 students will not be returning of current students, 13 confirmed new students, 27 not confirmed (emails sent). 60 names of students who inquired about the school (approx. 40 of these still in contact- a new round of emails have been sent out). Recent new shadows.
- Closing Public Comments
  - Barbara suggested reach out to greater community- Salem chamber, exchange club, Salem school is closing a building (haigh school), parents posting poster on local public place boards.
  - Mary Jo-
  - Rene-?'s from faculty-
    - Confusion about landlord
    - Are we opening next year, update on contracts
    - ? Curriculum consultant
    - Asked for update tomorrow
  - The Conlon family presented a surprise gift – more information to follow
  - Melanie made a motion to go to closed session based on RSA laws (to discuss contracts, realestate information) – seconded by Jennifer - approved by all in role call. 7:54 pm
  - Returned to open session 10 pm- Motion by Melanie to adjourn, seconded by Amy and approved by all
  - Next meeting: Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 6 pm
  - Adjourned: 10:10pm