

Granite State Arts Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 18, 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.

- Attendance: Amy Sevigny, Kate Russell, Mark Bograd, Judy David, Ken Dunne, Melanie Holden, Don Erdbrink
- Excused: Scott Mullane
- Guest: None
- Call to order: 6:12 pm
- Public Comment- none
- Approval of Minutes- September 1, 2015- Judy made a motion to approve minutes- seconded by Kate and approved by all

- Chair's Report
 - Front Desk issue – need coverage- we are currently with volunteers part time- no afternoon coverage. This is a security issue.
 - Melanie made a motion to go into closed session RSA 91-A:3 II (A-J) seconded by Kate and approved by all- 6:28 pm
 - Returned to open session- 6:55 pm
 - An offer will be made to our current volunteer Michelle B. to work as front desk help- salary agreed upon in closed session
 - An offer will be made current after school programming candidate to market and develop after school programming.
 - Ken Zambello will offer a free music clinic to the community on October 29th -
 - VLACS Monitoring – Computer lab to be moved downstairs. Tech seed will be adding wiring that we need. Students needed to be monitored during VLAC time.
 - 2 computers will be upstairs and copier for the teacher's room.
 - Liberty Utilities – Consumption analysis was completed – Don contacted them and presented the results. Range \$35/d- \$65/day for electric heat. Don will investigate further for budgeting purposes.

- o School Number – We now have our school number- we are still waiting to be put in the system for matching (this is a government data entry delay). We can use this # for grant applications. The combined NCES IDs:330329600711
- o Audit – Progress. Don has organized binder and the reports needed have been gathered (Mark, Don, Renia and Judy are working on this). Planned date for the end of September
- o Handbooks Review – Melanie – family handbook has gone out. Waiting for faculty handbook to be returned from legal. Melanie will complete this process and send
- o Update on survey – Kate presented- 65 responded. Result will be sent to the board. 31 responders would like their own email account- info has been sent to Renia for set up. Some expressed interest in board positions- Don will reach out. A few volunteers for teaching/subs- Mark has this information and will reach out.
- Budget Committee Report – Ken, Don, Scott, Judy
 - o Updated spreadsheet with projections – presented by Don. We are in better shape than last year at this time but it is essential that we work aggressively on fundraising, large donations and family/community giving.
- Fundraising and income goals – fundraising committee with resume meeting- Renia is coordinating. Families ask letter is complete and will be presented at open house. Annual appeal letter and marketing materials are being edited and will be sent to local businesses, previous donors and potential contacts (Amy sent out an email to the community asking for contacts). Gala is planned for the Spring (March)- parent volunteers have volunteered to coordinate!
- Additional \$36 from the state- Ken updated State of NH budget- this year we are getting \$36 this year. And \$1000 next year. New law regarding tax exemption (lower rate)- Ken explained process, which involves adding a warrant article and being voted on by Derry townsfolk - this will need more research.
- Head of School Report -- Mark *****Inserted from email report***** below

Head of School Report

September 15, 2015

Culture and Climate:

- ***After 3 weeks, most of the new students are beginning to understand we are a family and take care of each other. The bad language that was going on in the first week has been resolved.***
- ***Cyber bullying was a discussion that I had with students and the law about even though it may happen outside of school, we have jurisdiction if the issues are then brought into school. Have not heard about any issues since my discussion with them.***

- ***Student government to start soon.***

Curriculum

- ***Kim Carter continues to work with the teachers.***
- ***Teachers are going to use Powerschool to explain their grading system – i.e. Mr. Sharlow’s webpage and Powerschool page***
- ***As of 9/14 – 52 parents have signed into their Powerschool account. I will be discussing the positives of communication via the Parent Portal in my introduction on Open House night – September 30th***
- ***The staff is going to start looking at 2nd semester classes and how we can offer different classes than originally planned***
- ***State Testing results – Smarter Balanced – Math and English – Mark explained that this was 11th graders- who were at previous schools for education as we were an opening school last year. Some discussion regarding having SATs as state testing.***

Facilities

- ***Same as last week***

Staff

- ***We are looking still for many volunteers including Computer lab coverage, Front desk coverage in the afternoon, Graphic Design teacher, study hall coverage, tutors....***
- ***We will need a part-time Math teacher for second semester***
- ***We MUST have an afternoon front desk person. It is a safety and security issue and MUST be discussed.***

Enrollment and Outreach

We have 102 students- 5 possible new students on Monday.

Ken made a motion to go into closed session based on RSA 91- A: 3 II (a-j) 8:30pm
Return to open session: 8:50pm

- ***New business- possible whole school trip to NYC on November 20th.***
- ***Ken sent out “grant wish” sheets to staff, none have been returned - Mark will ask them to return***
- ***Next meeting- September 29th@ 6pm***