

SGWS Board Meeting
August 11, 2020 via zoom

In attendance: Kyle Yoder, Jen Vereb, Tracy Edwards, Caty Petersilge, Muhamad Musa, Bridget Ambrisco, Dionne LaRue, Ben Hoffman, Rocky Lewis, Gabrielle Aryeetey, Julie Gannon, Julie Marchetta, Nancy Stewart, Mary Eisaman, April Thomas, Sarah Smilak, Amy Hecky, Lacey Wise-Warnement
Two parent observers.

Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm
Reading of opening verse.
Review of meeting protocol via zoom.
Review of June minutes
Minutes approved as written.

Board Orientation

Director of Administration, Tracy Edwards reviewed how school is organized and how decisions are made at SGWS.

Board President, Kyle Yoder, discussed responsibilities of the board as providing oversight and insight for the school but not involved in day to day activities of the school.

Roles of Duty: to care, of loyalty, and of obedience. Confidentiality of board, attending meetings.

Vice-president, Bridget Ambrisco, reviewed the importance of acting as a board member versus acting as a parent and that board members must act for the health of the school, not self.

Secretary, Jen Vereb, reviewed the board binder of documents and how it is organized.

Binders were provided to new members with current information. Updated information was provided via email to other board members.

Administration Reports

Director of Administration, Tracy Edwards

Daily work includes working on Reopening School Task Force which also includes Julie Gannon, Edward Grimes, Kristen Oberhaus, Marie Paul, Rocky Lewis, Amy Hecky, and Kyle Yoder.

Praised Task Force for all work invested in return to school planning.

Praised faculty who are meeting weekly throughout the summer, while many are also taking continuing education classes virtually.

Director of Admissions and Marketing, Amy Hecky

Daily work includes much of same work as DA.

Enrollment currently at 157 students with 5 waitlisted for Early Childhood spots.

Enrolled numbers are fluid at this time.

Twenty students opted out at opportunity provided in July. Twelve students did not enroll at time of re-enrollment.

Multiple families have expressed concerns for return to school in fall.

Marketing: Still taking applications online, provided two in-person tours, serving on committees and Reopening Task Force.

Director of Finance, Julie Marchetta and Ben Hoffman, Board Treasurer

YTD budget reviewed.

Ben Hoffman reviewed how to read our budget document. Noted correction of years on document to 2020-2021.

Differences in budget with change in enrolled students versus estimated students.

Tuition assistance and hardship funds still available for families of incoming students.

Director of Development, Rocky Lewis

Working primarily on preparing for possible distance learning, establishing improved wi-fi for school and building.

Back to School Task Force

Evaluating approaches to fundraising during pandemic.

Parent Council, Jen Vereb

Introduced Sarah Smilak who will be serving Parent Council role on board moving forward.

Kelli Wright and Katie Ruthsatz will also be taking lead roles for Parent Council.

Parent council is working to reimagine how to best serve school during pandemic and ensuring representatives for each class.

Committee Reports

Governance to provide committee report in Executive Session.

No other committee reports.

Board moved into executive session at 7:26pm, Any observers who may have joined asked to sign off.

New Business

Kyle Yoder reviewed the mandate approved by the Board and Administrative Faculty which created the Return to School Task Force. Described the extensive time and work invested in return to school planning. He and Tracy Edwards informed the Board of the decision made by the Return to School Task Force at their August 10, 2020 meeting to begin the school year in distance learning mode.

Following that announcement, the Governance Committee members reviewed a memorandum to the Board that described a discussion held based on requests from families to dissolve and void their tuition contracts after the initial opt-out period had ended. The Governance Committee recommended to the SGWS Board of Trustees that it uphold the original decision on June 8, 2020 to offer a one-time opt-out period and execute the contract in the future. They did not recommend any further action at this Board meeting and supported the Administration in its execution of the contract for any family who wishes to withdraw their child from the school. There was extensive discussion on this recommendation.

Kyle Yoder made a motion to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation as written. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Closing verse

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Jen Vereb
Secretary