

## **Spring Garden Waldorf School**

### **Board Meeting minutes**

**August 14, 2023**

Attendance: Bridget Ambrisco, Ken Ambler, Gabrielle Aryeetey, Stephanie Bailey, Joanna Caley, Miriam Daniel, Joyce Gordon-Shapkaliska, Darrin Griggy, Amy Hecky, Dan Kavouras, Brenda Leighton, Rocky Lewis, Julie Marchetta, Kristen Oberhaus, Kyle Strnad, Dionne LaRue

- Meeting called to order at 6:33pm with the reading of the Opening Verse

- June 2023 minutes approved as written

### **EDUCATION AND INSPIRATION**

Kristen Oberhaus, Grade Eight Teacher, gave each Board member a copy of *Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching from the Inside Out*, by Jack Petrash. We will read portions of the text, then discuss it during the Education and Inspiration part of our meetings this year. Each member was asked to read the Foreword and Chapter One for our September meeting.

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

#### **Director of Administration**

Amy Hecky, Director of Administration, reported that there are still a few open faculty positions, however, it does not affect SGWS's ability to provide services to current students. There are good prospects for an EC Extended Care Lead Teacher and for a Grades Support Person. She said the most crucial vacancy to fill is for EC and Grades Aftercare Coordinators. She asked Board members to reach out to their contacts and let her know of any potential candidates.

Amy highlighted a few items from her Administration report. Computers for Faculty and Staff will be distributed, and each employee will sign an Employee Technology Agreement. Untangled Technology is managing the transfer of data to a Google drive. The updated Operating Guidelines are in the final stages of review by the Administrative Faculty and then will be ready for Board review. As part of the effort to upgrade services and safety, SGWS has engaged Victim's Assistance and is drafting a suicide prevention plan. Victim's Assistance recommended that SGWS also work with Mobile Response Stabilization Service, an organization that can provide mental health services to students in crisis. A representative from MRSS can be called to the School, or a parent or caregiver can be given a referral for services.

Amy also reported that the BWC denied SGWS's application for a \$9000 grant to help pay for the School's new phone system. The reason given for the denial was that the system is not a two-way communication system. However, it is a two-way communication system, therefore, Joanna will contact BWC to clarify.

#### **Director of Admissions & Marketing**

Rocky Lewis, Director of Admissions and Marketing, said that SGWS enrollment is 170 students. Grades One and Four are full. An information session is planned for September 7 to provide parents and caregivers with updates on the EdChoice program.

### **Director of Finance**

Julie Marchetta, Director of Finance, informed the Board that the application for ERC funds was approved and it could take up to six months for SGWS to receive the funds. The Finance Committee will meet to determine how best to allocate the money.

### **Director of Development/Development Committee**

Joanna Caley, Director of Development, stated that the conversion of the donor database is complete. It is now separate from other SGWS databases. She will also collect contact information for alumni, alumni parents, and extended family to create a more robust donor database. She is also exploring various grant opportunities for safety and facilities updates.

Joanna reviewed the handout that delineates Board members' fundraising responsibilities and explained ways to fulfill those responsibilities. The handout should be kept in members' Board binders.

The Development Committee is looking for additional members and considering forming task groups to work on specific goals and projects.

### **Parent Council**

Parent Council is in the process of assigning a lead to attend Board meetings. The DEI/PC event that was cancelled due to weather will not be rescheduled.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

In planning the Board (re)Orientation, Committee members reviewed a diagram presented by Joanna Caley that explains the structure of a Waldorf school showing the role of each constituent group, how the groups support each other and the harmony within and between the groups. She also provided a document outlining Board members' fundraising responsibilities.

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is evaluating moving SGWS accounts into interest-earning accounts. The Committee will also hold a meeting to plan for the School's financial growth and reevaluate the budget structure.

### **Governance Committee**

There was no new report from the Governance Committee.

### **Nominating Committee**

There was no new report from the Nominating Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board (re)Orientation**

Amy and Board President Bridget Ambrisco led the discussion of SGWS organization and operation based on Steiner's model of the three-fold social order. Rather than a hierarchy, Waldorf schools have various groups that operate independently but support one another. This allows all voices to be heard when decisions are made. Amy also explained the importance of Marie Paul's role as Pedagogical

Director. Board members participated in creating a diagram showing the various constituent groups, their roles and how each group supports the others.

Bridget reminded members to attend and participate in meetings. She encouraged asking questions and speaking up to allow the Board to fully discuss issues and ensure that all voices are heard. She reminded members that our discussions are often confidential. Board members who are also parents at SGWS must be able to separate their role as Board member from their role as parent and make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the school.

Board members then spent time discussing in more detail the various grants and funds mentioned in the Administrative Board reports.

### **Committee Members and Goals**

The Executive Committee will make Committee assignments to prepare for the September Board meeting. Committee chairs should report Committee goals to Bridget and Dionne by email by the October Board meeting. The goals should relate to the objectives of the SGWS Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm with reading of the Closing Verse.

Dionne LaRue  
(she/her)  
Board Secretary

**Next Board Meeting: September 11, 2023, at 6:30pm**