

Spring Garden Waldorf School

Board Meeting minutes

March 13, 2023

Attendance: Bridget Ambrisco, Stephanie Bailey, Daren Brake, Joanna Caley, Tricia Cottrell, Miriam Daniel, Darrin Griggy, Amy Hecky, Brenda Leighton, Rocky Lewis, Julie Marchetta, Kristen Oberhaus, Kyle Yoder, Dionne LaRue

- Meeting called to order at 6:35pm with the reading of the Opening Verse
- January 2023 minutes approved with a correction to reflect that the College discussed the Compensation Task Force Recommendation but did not vote on it.
- February 2023 minutes approved as written

EDUCATION AND INSPIRATION

Kristen Oberhaus led the group through an exercise in the grid method of drawing. This technique was often used by the Renaissance painters by placing a grid screen in front of their subjects. The use of a grid can help focus observation on each individual square of an entire subject. Alternatively, an artwork can be created collaboratively if each student creates one square, then each students' work is compiled into a whole.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Director of Administration

Amy Hecky, Director of Administration, updated the Board on the status of the ERC funds. SGWS will work with our CPA and another accountant with experience with ERC to apply for the credit following tax season.

Amy also briefed the Board on some of the ideas that came out of the safety training faculty and staff completed with the Copley Police on March 13. Ideas that can be immediately implemented include lock bolts for classroom doors and a film that can be applied to windows to obscure the view into a classroom, but not out of it. SGWS is also investigating options for two-way communication systems with emergency services and the ability to set off a school-wide alarm from any classroom. Future consideration should be given to methods that would provide a deterrent rather than a reaction to an emergency. These decisions must include pedagogy, discussions amongst the College of Teachers, and involvement of Administration and the Board of Trustees. Amy also stated that Victim's Assistance, a local non-profit, can address mental health concerns of staff and/or student(s) should the need arise.

Joanna Caley, Director of Development mentioned that she is pursuing grant money to fund school safety measures.

Director of Admissions & Marketing

Rocky Lewis, Director of Admissions & Marketing spoke about current attrition and the reasons for unenrolling given during exit interviews. She is also investigating options for a non-Adobe based parent portal for the admissions process. Rocky is also working on an initiative to transform Room 101, the

former school store, into a community room which could be used by the school community for activities and continuing education opportunities.

Director of Finance

Julie Marchetta, Director of Finance, reviewed the YTD budget. In general, the budget is on track, though slightly behind in the area of fundraising. She also reported that the Finance Committee is working to meld the Compensation Task Force Recommendation into the proposed 2023-24 budget.

Director of Development

Joanna Caley, Director of Development, updated the group about the Annual Auction. All the invitations have been sent and some volunteers have already signed up. She has secured a dessert sponsor through the Copley Chamber of Commerce. There is still a need for more sponsors and donated auction items.

Parent Council

Tricia Cottrell, a Parent Council Lead, said that PC is trying to find people to fill leadership roles and increase interest in PC with families in the Early Childhood program. Therefore, the focus of the March 10th Parent Council meeting was to build community amongst PC reps and new families with children in the EC. The meeting was well attended and well-received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting were provided prior to the meeting. The bulk of the Committee's work was to plan the March Board meeting. There were no questions regarding the minutes.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been preparing the Proposed 2023-24 Budget to present at the April Board meeting.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee has begun the Human Resources Audit as detailed in the Director of Administration's Board report. The Committee also worked with the DA to finalize her goals for this academic year. The goals are:

- Evaluate and implement improvements to school safety and security.
- Research, plan, and begin implementing improvements to meet the IT needs of the organization.
- Facilitate creation of template and completion of an HR Audit.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently vetting candidates for Board membership. One of the candidates is an SGWS alumnus.

DEI Committee

As outlined in the February DEI Committee minutes, the Committee is currently working on many initiatives and has formed working groups to manage some tasks. There were no questions regarding the February minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm with reading of the Closing Verse.

Dionne LaRue
(she/her)
Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: April 17, 2023, at 6:30pm