

Spring Garden Waldorf School

Board meeting minutes

October 14, 2024

Attendance: Brenda Leighton, Ken Ambler, Jeff Scott, Stephanie Bailey, Amy Hecky, Rocky Lewis, Julie Marchetta, Kelli Wright, Dionne LaRue, Kyle Strnad, Suzie Reich, Bridget Ambrisco, Gabrielle Aryeetey, Matt Slater

Guest: Danielle Gilbert

Absent: Dan Kavouras, Michael Gannon, Darrin Griggy, Marie Paul

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM with the reading of the Opening Verse

Approved Minutes

August 16 Board Meeting minutes approved

Education and Inspiration – Stephanie Bailey

Chapter IX of *Partnerships of Hope; Building Waldorf School Communities*, by Christopher Schaefer, PhD., pages 202 to 207

Next Month: Chapter III, pages 51 to 71

Administration Reports

Administration: Amy Hecky

QSEHRA Benefit: going smoothly

Building of storage building: Concrete contractor needs to be replaced.

Playground equipment: Final decisions made about equipment. Bears will install the equipment, with no volunteers needed for the build. We will need to remove the old structure ourselves, however. Amy will order the equipment this week. Installation will be in December.

Administration and Marketing: Rocky Lewis

- 45 people attended the Open House. This is good!
- We have added a new tracking spreadsheet titled “Enrollment Funnel Stats”. More details on applicant pipeline and declined students.

Question: On the Enrollment Funnel spreadsheet, for Financial Decline Reason, is this cost?

Answer: This was higher but is lowering. We lose pre-school students who are waiting on Ed Choice funds. We need to look at families who are just a bit over the line for Ed Choice limit, as well. This is a money per student metric.

Committee Reports

Executive committee: Bridget Ambrisco

- No new information

Finance Committee: Julie Marchetta

Budget spreadsheet handout, titled "YTD 2024-2025 Budget 10-9-24.xlsx"

- Ontrack for this time of year
- Waiting on Annual Giving
- Waiting on DOE funds
- Aftercare/Beforecare total is +\$409. This is more kids coming
- Budget is -\$167k. Actual is -\$31k. Overall, this is better than budgeted.
- The committee discussed salary increase and retirement benefits. Julie has a working model for this.

Question: How are the increases in salary, retirement, and tuition brought forward?

Answer: In the November meeting, this will be discussed and presented for Board approval.

Parent Council: Kelli Wright

- We want to explore more in-person events. Previous events were a big success.

Governance Committee: Brenda Leighton

- Rescheduled the meeting to 10/24. Will report at November Board meeting.

New Business

Presentation by Danielle Gilbert: Annual Giving Campaign



It Takes a Whole Village
Spring Garden
WALDORF SCHOOL

Theme for this year is “It takes a whole village”

- We created a graphic with student handprints. This goes in the display case. The thermometer tree will fill in as funds come in. Weekly updates will be on Friday. More hands as money comes in
- This year’s goal is \$54,900.
- Will announce on Nov. 8th, to avoid the election date on Nov. 5th
- Asking for full Board participation by Oct. 31st. Soft deadline is Dec. 31st. End of school year is formal deadline
- The card/website has different ways to pledge, with pledges due by the end of the year.

Questions: Can we sell the tree at the auction or keep it somehow?

Answer: Great idea!

Question: What was the goal last year?

Answer: \$43,000. We missed the goal by less than \$300.

Question: What is the audience for Annual Giving?

Answer: Everyone!

Question: Do we have a mailing list?

Answer: eTapestry is a database of previous donors, parents, grand friends, board members, with some corporate participation. We’re looking at community sponsorship, as well.

Question: How does the list keep current?

Answer: We use snail mail and get returned mail and successful donations.

Question: How many requests are sent out?

Answer: 500 to 700.

Strategic Plan: Amy Hecky

The procedure for Strategic Plan updates was to add all the comments made at the Joint Board/Faculty meeting in August into the plan. Faculty reviewed and worked on wording for all changes.

Next step is to create the Operations Plan from the Strategic Plan. Admin faculty will be involved, and this will be returned to the Board at the January or February meeting.

Motion made to discuss:

Question: How about core values refinement?

Answer: Amy and Rocky will work on this

Discussion ended.

Motion to accept Strategic Plan

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM with reading of the Closing Verse.

Ken Ambler
(he/him)
Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: November 11th, 2024, at SGWS, at 6:30 pm.