

Syringa Mountain School

Board Meeting Minutes – 03-15-17

Meeting Called to Order by Randy Flood at 5:10pm. Board Members Present: Randy Flood (RF), Tenaya Kolar (TK), Angi Hunter (AH), Amy Jonas (AJ), Phoebe Pilaro (PP). Non Board Members: Christine Fonner (CF), Sandy Kelly (SK), Greg Travelstead (GT), Kristin Funk (KF), Amy Schlatter (AS), Cara Liberatore (CL), Bianca Grimm (BG), Christi (C).

Opening circle

Any additions: Item i - Building Plans + architect discussion; public comments signed in

Public Comments:

Cara L - thank you for devotion to school. She's here after parent ed night and Bobbi's speech. Her take away: there's a big/urgent need to do something inside the framework to make it sustainable. As a concerned parent and member, it's necessary to have full capacity...she's unclear what that means? Specifics were left out. Unclear what the goal is or if it has been identified. She left the meeting concerned and felt like it was a breaking point type scenario. She is committed and moved here for the school. She has concerns asking parents for financial commitments. She feels we aren't being fully transparent.

Bianca G - As part of administration, she's noticed a concern for why we've gone through so many administrators? Concern is losing CF as Director of school. Why did we lose past directors? When administrators don't feel validated they step out. She is bringing it up b/c of CF ask for increase. Concern for the job CF does. She supports CF for her ask next year. She doesn't want to go through another administrator.

Sandy K - Public comments to offer ideas garnered from outside:

1. volunteers - increase the use of parents in the classes for recess and reading time
2. advertising - get our kids in the Weekly Sun spotlight
3. board change over - applauds the founders but board should be made up of people who know people
4. clarity of roles on the board
5. elevator - feels like it has no place here or a purpose
6. Identify a person to talk with the state about how SMS obtains property tax dollars

Board Member Addition:

Need to vote and swear in next meeting - April; any comments - no; TK motion to elect Greg T to board during April meeting; AJ - second's the motion; AIF - yes; none opposed.

GT - happy to make room in his schedule to support and his role will focus on the legislative lobbying.

RF - thank you for giving of your time especially since not a parent.

Approval of February minutes: motion - TK, second AH. AIF yes. None opposed, no discussion.

Approval of Oct/Nov/Dec minutes: motion - TK, second AH. AIF yes. None opposed, no discussion.

Director report - Christine (CF)

Apologies for no formal report. Most will be covered under new business. She received deed to USDA loan purchase. SK requested a copy. RF said to keep in file on school grounds.

Financial update - Sandy (SK)

She sent an email with her monthly reports. Are there any questions? RF - numbers are better from 2/22 meeting. Made payroll for March with ST loans. Short significantly in April and cash flow at year end June. State income is due for Aug but we still have payroll through Aug also. Still \$105k short if we estimate Hoe Down fundraising and ST loans. PP - the plans for upstairs actually save us money. RF - We are required to do this for occupancy. TK - this is required to keep us open. RF - no we can expand upstairs with no add'l cost. He took a lot of GT's thoughts to heart about looking at all decision through two lenses: enrollment and waldorf-ness. We now how time to refocus our efforts on fundraising. If we need to reconsider music, why aren't we leveraging our symphony capacity? GT - clarifying that the loan is from the USDA and funds can only be used on the building. RF - March 24th and Apr 11th are legislative dates potentially impacting funding questions. SK - absolute deadline to publish the 2017-2018 budget is July 15, 2017. CF - the only reason we were pushing the timeline up was regarding staffing considerations. TK - we need to approve monthly expenditures. Motion - TK, second PP, AIF yes. None opposed, no discussion.

Fundraising Updates - TK

TK - aware of the importance of refocusing at our next work session 4/5/17. Led visualization around fundraising and who comes to mind for us all.

Parent Council Update - TK

TK - Hoe Down raffle is underway. PP - Is the entertainment the same? Yes.

Teacher Update - AS

AS - staff has been heavy but are pow-wowing and bonding through it. Collaboration is high. Very emotional at how solid they are moving forward. Rising up. Staff needs thanked and supported. KF - we didn't strike.

Enrollment/Marketing Committee Update - CF

9 registered for 2017-18 kinder, 6 on list

13 registered for 1

5 registered for 2

13 registered for 3

5 registered for 4

9 registered for 5

6 registered for 6

4/28/17 open enrollment ends and current students can get pushed to wait list if others enroll before. TK - can we confirm who has enrolled. CF - you can ask, like a hotel. GT - not accurate. CF - a waiver can be created and signed and then info disclosed. TK - requested waiver so board can get info. Marketing - front page of Idaho Mountain Express "Syringa is Home". SK - do we want to think about fingerprinting board members for \$30 per person...background checking? CF - regarding marketing...press releases are going out; photos for the Friday guest speaker; open enrollment is in the paper. GT - is it editorial? CF - no, big picture.

New Business

Approve staffing budget - CF

RF - having a hard time doing this w/o having a better idea about enrollment and funding. Clarifying that this approval request is just to give people enough time to job search and consider other SMS position? CF - yes. RF - any discussion about waiting until 4/12 BOD meeting? PP - are some staffing decision riding on \$50k either way? RF - what is current enrollment? BG - 133. RF - feeling like we could do an injustice by approving this staffing without being closer to the end of enrollment period. It is more responsibly sound to try to close the enrollment gap first. PP - enrollment is not really set until late. RF - what does the finish out upstairs do? Gives room for expansion. Do we wait to consider? AS - it makes sense to me to see a few scenarios. What are projections at 110, 130, 150. PP - we've never done it that way. We've probably always overestimated. We always knew we would have big fundraising dollars. TK - last year's process is flawed. PP - yes, do you think CF can we push back a month? KF - if people are looking for jobs they are already looking. CL - teachers taking a paycut is crazy; can we think smaller? parents and teachers shouldn't take the onus. TK - next year's model is doing that by cutting and slimming. It's not possible to run a school on just state funding. AJ - Dr. Goral confirmed that other Waldorf charters are like us financially. GT - we are the ones that have been issued a disservice through the tax issue. TK - thank you for comments. Can we do the scenario options? GT - should be easy to update a few variables. SK - yes, should be able to. RF - need to discuss getting rid of small ticket items like copier and rugs that are too expensive. PP - suggests leaving the staffing up to CF. RF - we will consider the enrollment number scenarios.

Lease request for Hunger Coalition - CF

Correction: not animal shelter, HC. HC is requesting to use our vans for two months for cost of \$600. Discussion around liability and insurance options. PP - relationship building for us. CF - solid non profit to partner with. May use their produce next year in farm to table. Discussion around ensuring if they use more than the stated 200 miles, there is an extra 53 cents a mile true up. An addendum will be added: 200 miles for the \$600 cost and any mileage over than is 53 cents per mile. Motion to approve contract and addendum: PP, second TK. AIF - yes. None opposed, no discussion.

Mission specific Goal Changes - CF

In order to avoid being out of Charter compliance with the commission and to avoid another \$12k bill from panorama, we need to update our charter mission specific goals. TK - weren't you going to adjust? CF - no I was just providing you with the document and can help. Commission will provide us a waiver. Deadline to update is June 1, 2017. We only need to update the community section. Replace with a general method or methods we will use. AS - we could survey parents during parent meetings. PP - do we still do panorama? CF- yes, for this 2016-17 school year. Panorama expires end of March. AJ to compile questions. AH to update mission specific goals.

Bus delivery - CF

Bus will be delivered in April. Inspection set for June. 32 passenger bus with the goal to help increase enrollment from families who need transportation. 5 - 7 new enrolled students will pay for it. Claim depreciation for Feb payment. Bus costs \$51k but state reimburses 110%. Estimate 2/2018 payment ~\$6500. AJ - where will it park? CF - earthworks or front lines here. PP - we need another media blitz. RF - explain the depreciation again? GT - it's more like a subsidy. RF - do you want to sell the vans. CF - no. PP - time check 657pm.

Board Grievance - TK

Sage school has another layer before grievances get to the board. In our situation, CF is all three layers prior to. TK wants to nominate KF to be an additional layer before reaching the board. KF - ok. TK - will modify communication policy. She will make a document to amend.

Director Evaluation - AH

We are working on compiling our review. It is due in April and we are soliciting input from the BOD, teachers and parents. If there are suggestions, please provide them to me. She will be on a learning call about ways to evaluate the director on a charter school network conference call.

Parent Survey Update - AJ

4 questions from the charter. We will include on the survey. CF - this is why we are looking at mission specific goals. TK - Amy can send out the 4 questions and 1 question for the Dir evaluation.

Board policy review - AH

Tabling 7000 and 8000 series review to next meeting. TK raised a question about 7400 and requested modification to current wording to remove "must" and include "can be reimbursed at the discretion of the board". Motion - TK, second - PP. AIF yes. None opposed, no discussion. 8000 series is tabled again as BOD members weren't prepared to approve.

Building plans - RF

BG question about the door in the hallway and concern there is no sunlight in the staff offices. RF - this is due to trying to sound proof the orchestra room. Discussion around sound issue downstairs and up. Agree that if 4-6 go upstairs, then some sound will diminish as 1, 2 and 3 separate and have a buffer between. AH mentioned that parents are also researching on ways to sound proof. GT - can the upstairs be phased at all? If so, does it generate any savings? Feels big to do all right now. RF will ask. Concerns that the constraints around the loan may not allow it. GT - just considering quality of space vs quantity of space. GT - need some serious answers around the cost of complete finish out, sub contractors and all planning. What are total fees? RF - SK? SK - doesn't know. RF - GT will you join for contract review tomorrow to touch on things that may be overlooked (ie "not to exceed..." clause).

Executive Session - Roll call in 7:35 pm: Randy Flood, Tenaya Kolar, Amy Jonas, Angi Hunter, Phoebe Pilaro. Roll call out 8:12pm: Randy Flood, Tenaya Kolar, Amy Jonas, Angi Hunter, Phoebe Pilaro.