**BOARD MEETING Minutes**

**Jan 20, 2016 5:00 – 7:00 PM Syringa Mountain School**

**Facilitator/Time Keeper: Bobbi Filbert, Minutes: Svea Grover**

Attending: Board Members: Greg Bloomfield, Randy Flood, Phoebe Pilaro, Bobbi Filbert, Ben Rogers via phone

Staff: Mende via phone, Helene Mengert, Sandy Kelly, Svea Grover

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| Agenda Item | Time | Presenter | | Topic | | |
| 1. Verse | **5:00** | *The heart of the Waldorf method is the conviction that education is an art-it must speak to the child’s experience. To educate the whole child, his heart and will must be reached as well as his mind. -Rudolf Steiner* | | | | |
| 1. Public Comment-3 minutes per person. Permission of the Chairman of the Board to speak. | **5:10** | Public | Nancy Linscott: Would suggest we reach out 1st to those parents who have no sent in a response before reaching a decision. | | | |
| 1. Any Additions, Corrections, Modifications or Substitutions to the Current Agenda | **5:30** | Greg | Greg: Add item G – Crowd funding effort? Randy motioned to add crowd funding to the agenda, Phoebe 2nd. All voted in favor. | | | |
| 1. Consent agenda    1. Approval of Dec. 16, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes | **5:35** | Greg | Motion to approve Dec. 16th, 2016 board minutes – Randy. 2nd by Bobbi. All in favor – all voted in favor | | | |
| 1. Old Business    1. Financial Update | **5:40** | Sandy | **Report:** Sandy – schedule sent yesterday with narrative – any questions? Questions regarding the difference in deficiency reported earlier. Difference in reporting types as well as timing of fundraising vs expenses due. Questions about need of short term loan to cover expenses going forward as we await the anticipated fundraising. We need to raise between $150,000 and $200,000 moving forward this school year – inclusive of any upcoming events, close the gap, grants etc…Next State Income expected: Feb. 2016 approx. $120,000, May 2016, approx.. $60,000  Phoebe feels we have not tapped into individuals who have helped in the past – from Sokoloff’s cocktail event 2014. Need to approach some of these people. Phoebe also announced that she has a substantial amount from the family foundation to Syringa. Will be coming 1st week of February. Can this be used this as a matching grant situation to leverage? | | | |
| 1. New Business    1. Proposal for storage area to code    2. 6th grade for 2016-17    3. 5000 Board Policy revisions    4. Legislative Committee Update    5. Shannon Connauton - application for alternative authorization & declaration of area of needed    6. Development Dir. Update – upcoming grants    7. Crowd Funding Effort | **6:00**  **6:10** | Svea  Board  Mende  Bobbi  Mende  Svea  Helene | Discussion: Question regarding 6th grade and need then of the stairway and awning. Will revisit when we have cost estimates. Randy asking if we can get away without having 50 on the floor and have 6th at the same time. Mende adding that upstairs includes the ERI small group instruction, Julie’s office, Meetings, admin office as well…all will add up to more than 50 with orchestra. We are hesitant to limit orchestra as it’s an important part of the curriculum/music program.  Bobbi suggesting that we be more creative in space usage, moving students around to keep the numbers under the 50 until we can get the money raised. Mende would want to include Erin in on the conversation if we are considering any revision of her program.  **5th Grade Parent Survey: Parent responses: 5 no response, 3 no’s, 8 maybe/not sure, 8 yes**  **Greg** feels that many of those maybe’s will convert to yes if we have a 6th grade. Feels we can commit to making a strong curriculum and funding to make it happen. He feels this year was a challenged group of 6th graders due to having 3 teachers this last year. This next year would be entirely different experience.  **Randy:** we have three board members who will have a 6th grader next year – concerned that we may lose them as board members if we do not have a 6th grade – they have put their heart & soul into this school.  Phoebe: With perspective of former 6th grade parent, doesn’t feel that energy/funding should be put towards a class with 8 definite students…even if we have 15 students – from experience, as we’ve seen this past year, we may lose half of these students by Christmas. Parent input strong but child may decide differently based upon what happened this year. Prefer to be solid in elem. And when strong fiscally and otherwise, expand into middle school.  **Ben** – break even estimate at 18 students – many factors included: Current enrollment with additional grade. Estimates $770,000 from state, if eliminate 6th grade at 23 students, drops to $600,000. Feel the class is strong. If the 5th went out into the community right now they could be a great representation of our school at this point. Could be reversed if we have attrition next year during the year. Feel that there would be enough enrollment to start, to support the class.  **Bobbi:** Last year, Phoebe & Mende very strong proponents of moving into 6th grade last year. Feel like we’re ahead of the game this year and that we could follow other models of K-6th. Feel there are opportunities for parents to get involved and help with planning for opportunities in the community and that we can offer programs that we can reach their hearts – and that will make them stay. Feel that parents are a bit guarded with their commitments due to what happened this year. Wants to create a committee to brainstorm what the year could look like - wants to make sure we are not just focused on the academic rigors. Have to show parents we have a strong vision for this.  Board asked input from Mende & Svea – Mende had outlined educational goals in document previously – importance of looking at all the factors which she’s tried to give the board earlier. Svea appreciates the passion of parents wanting to move forward to 6th grade but feels many of the concerns lined out in Mende’s document – and reasons why half of current 6th grade left, have not been addressed or are unable to change due to our current physical space.  Question to Mende from Board: Does Mende feel that we are more prepared than last year when the decision was made to move forward with 6th grade? Have learned that the mistakes this year, not fair to put these things on a new teacher etc… the curriculum expands exponentially – no one really had that information at this point last year, as it was compiled over the summer last year. Now we know what that really involves and what it takes to make it beautiful and complete. More of a realistic picture now of what it takes to do it well and many of those things we are not able to create.  Phoebe talked about the things we are able to affect and not for this next year.  Bobbi motioned to have a 6th grade class for 2016-17 – Randy seconded. Further conversation? All in favor? – Ben, Randy, Bobbi, Greg – No – Phoebe. **Motioned passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed.**  Phoebe motioned to approve 5000 board policies. Greg, Phoebe, Ben, Bobbi yea, Randy abstained. Motion passed.  Nancy Linscott drafted a letter that Svea sent out with link to Mt Express and talking points to our parents - trying to get letters to the editor by 3pm Friday. Main point is to get word out about our school, drive enrollment. Also next Wed. rally at the capitol - possibly rally here in town. Would like to get 10 people down to the rally. Nancy looking at bills coming to the floor – will be asking for parent support to our representatives etc.. at that time. Seeing where our voice should be directed. The committee met with Don Keller – and received much advice. Optimistic about upcoming legislation and past bills that show legislators have been supportive of charter schools. Early in the session so possibilities for bills that could help us and that we would want to get behind. Need to join groups that are working toward same goals – need to become involved and have representatives at these meetings – network etc…  Proposed an Enrollment Committee – more exposure to the Hispanic community – need to be proactive in this enrollment area.  This committee will also work towards gaining access to local funds from the county, property taxes, levies etc… Mende noted that it’s very important for the school to stay away from being affiliated with a political party or agenda. Nancy & Bobbi seeing favorable changes on the landscape.  Think we should join both associations.  Bobbi made motion to approve Shannon Connauton’s application for Alternative Authorization. Randy 2nd – all approved.  Close the Gap fund is up to 55% participation…still 46 families who have not yet given. Have received by her calculations $57, 787 to date.  Will address at another time if needed. | | | |
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| 1. Next Board Meeting Date: Feb. 10, 2016 3pm | **Work session** | | | | | |
| 1. Executive Session as Authorized by Idaho Code 67-2345b for personnel issues or other identified legitimate reasons as identified by Open Meeting Law if needed. | **Only if needed** | | | | | |
| 1. Adjournment of Jan. 20, 2016 Board Meeting | **7:30** | | | |  |  |

*\*Anyone wishing to address the Board must complete a “Request to Appear before the Board” form and submit to the Board chair prior the start of the board meeting. The Board will take public comment only at regular board meetings and only on matters scheduled on the agenda. Board work sessions do not include time for public comment. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes. Total time allotted for public comment is at the discretion of the Board chair. Thank you for sharing your comments with us.* Legal Reference: I.C. Section 33-512(11) and section 67-2345.

*SMS Board Calendar 2015-16*

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | MONTH | DATE | Complte? | | JULY | 7/ | ongoing | | AUGUST |  |  | | SEPTEMBER | 9/16 | ongoing | | OCTOBER | 10/21 | complete | | NOVEMBER | 11/11 | complete | | DECEMBER | 12/16 | Complete | | JANUARY | 1/20 |  | | FEBRUARY |  |  | | MARCH |  |  | | APRIL |  |  | | MAY |  |  | | JUNE |  |  | | |  | | --- | | agenda item | | strategic plan | | Board roles and committees reviewed/elected, Review audit results | | board self evaluation, GOAL Setting, Fundraising Plan | | review 2000 policies | | REview 3000 policies | | review 4000 policies | | review 5000 policies, Schedule Audit, DIRECTOR EVALUATION BEGINS | | review 7000 policies, review stratregic plan | | review 8000 policies, DIRECTOR EVALUATION | | review 9000 policies, STAFF HIRING | | monitor student achievement, review program, publish proposed budget | | Annual budget meeting, annual review of bylaws | |

**Student Count: 127**

**School Calendar:**

**January:**

SMS Art Display at Bigwood Cinema

Jan. 18:  MLK – no school

**Jan. 20: SMS Board Meeting**

Jan. 28 All School musical performance

Jan. 29: Report Cards out

**February:**

Feb. 1: Enrollment period opens

Feb. 9: Wake Up Hailey hosted at SMS

Feb. 10/11: Ski /skate days

Feb. 12: No students – teacher training Feb.11th pm - Feb. 14th am

Feb. 15: Presidents’ day holiday – no school

Feb. 17: SMS Board Meeting

Feb. 18: All school Parent Education Night 6pm

Feb. 23: All FEDERAL MONITORING DOCUMENTS DUE

**March:**

**Mar. 2: Open House – current and new students & families invited**

**Mar 3-4: Parent Teacher conferences**