**BOARD MINUTES**

**March 18th, 2015 5:00-8:00 PM Syringa Mountain School**

1. A Board Meeting of the Syringa Mountain School Board was held on March 18th, 2015. Board Chair Greg Bloomfield presided. The following members were in attendance:

Greg Bloomfield, Board Chair

Phoebe Pilaro, Vice Chair

Ben Rogers, Board Treasurer

Bobbi Filbert, Parent Council Chair

Paul Bates was absent

Also in attendance:

Director, Dr. Mary Gervase

Pedagogical/Curriculum Director, Mende Coblentz

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.
2. No Public Comment.
3. Expense Report was not presented.
4. Old Business
   1. Update on HoeDown Event: $33,000 is a conservative estimate of the event earnings. Lots of positive PR resulted in the many public conversations generated as a result of selling the raffle tickets. Tax letters are being mailed to businesses by Parent Council volunteers. Acknowledge that half of the ticket price for event attendees can be claimed as a tax credit.
   2. Update on Kim John Payne by Mende Coblentz-Using the document provided by Kim John Payne for faculties to review prior to considering implementing his program, he asks “Is it the right time in the school’s biography to introduce this?” Mende summarized the following concerns: level of staff time commitment to implement includes weekly staff meetings, weekly lesson development by staff, separate committee meetings, ongoing training of 4 in-service days per year with additional coaching calls; 100% faculty commitment required-core staff are overloaded as both new teachers and new Waldorf teachers; more suitable for larger school staff so committee membership would only require each staff member serving on one committee; cost estimate is $24, 000 over three year time period. The Board and staff are already committed to annual Kentahten training to have all staff members Waldorf certified by 2017. This requires two weeks each summer plus *four in-service* days per year. We canceled the four in-service days for this school year so those will need to be accounted for over the remaining two years of training. Confidentiality issues are a concern if committee membership includes parent and community members. Ms. Coblentz recommended this program be reconsidered in the future. Board Member Bobbi Filbert will share this information with the Parent Council.
   3. Prospective Board Members: Cathy Jones came to tour the school but is not interested in serving at this time.
   4. Committee Reports: Ben Rogers had a very productive meeting with Elizabeth Matthews regarding possible strategies for renegotiating our lease relationship. Rob Lanford from USDA canceled the scheduled meeting and has not rescheduled. Enrollment window is open and media presence is increasing.
   5. Multiage Kindergarten: Information was shared from meeting with Kirsten Pochop, from the State Charter School Commission, who visited SMS last week. There is no legal impediment to SMS adding a multiage kindergarten. To do so, the school would need Commission permission and their next meeting is not until June. We would need to present to the Commission the following: clear procedure for maintaining two completely independent budgets; formula that demonstrates that the private arm is paying its fair share of all affiliated expenses: staffing, rent, utilities, supplies, etc; clear communication to parents that 4 year olds attending SMS do not have any enrollment preference and are not guaranteed a spot in the 5 year old kindergarten program. There are 11 5 year old kindergarten students presently enrolled for next year. Discussion of facility limitations with the addition of 6th grade next school year. Still waiting to determine what kind of a stair lift could be installed in the building to allow us to add a classroom upstairs. Heidi Reeves is assisting in this research. The Board will revisit this as enrollment numbers are firmed up.
5. New Business
   1. Board meeting protocol discussed and executive sessions will be held at 6:30 PM when necessary rather than waiting until the end of the board agenda.
   2. The Mountain School property will be listed for sale in the fall. Greg Bloomfield and Ben Rogers volunteered to discuss possible collaborations with other non-profits to keep the property as a community education resource.
   3. 2015-16 School Calendar highlights shared. Draft will be presented at the next board meeting. SMS calendar needs to be adopted by the board and sent to the state by the end of May.
   4. Annual Budget Hearing Date was discussed and date will be set at next board meeting.
6. Greg Bloomfield made a motion to enter executive session authorized by Authorized by Idaho Code 67-2345b for personnel issues as identified by Open Meeting Law. Motion was seconded by Phoebe Pilaro. Roll call vote was taken: Phoebe Pilaro-Yes. Ben Rogers-Yes. Bobbi Filbert-Yes Greg Bloomfield-Yes. Executive session ended 7:30 PM. No action was taken.
7. Next board meeting date: April 1st, 2015 beginning at 5:00 PM
8. Ben Rogers made a motion to adjourn the March 18th board meeting. Motion was seconded by Bobbi Filbert and passes unanimously.
9. Adjournment of March 18th, 2015 Board Meeting at 7:45 PM.