

Gate City Charter School for the Arts

Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:

“The mission of the GCCSA is to use an arts integrated curriculum ... to produce graduates who excel in both academics and the arts and have the knowledge, creativity and inquisitive nature that foster a life-long love of learning.”

Meeting Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 7:09 PM

Location: Gate City Charter School for the Arts, 7 Henry Clay Rd, Merrimack, NH with remote option

Voting Board Members in Attendance:

Danielle Charest (Chair)

Sarah Thibeault (Secretary)

Rebecca Boutin-Remote

Neil Mahoney (Parent Rep)

Grace Cavallo-Remote

Absent Board Members:

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Jennifer Blanchette-remote

Attending Public:

Joe Capriotti-remote

Amanda Mckenna-remote

Mojo Freeman-remote

Paige Duval-remote

Lynn Rae-remote

Eric Charest

Gemma Bates-remote

Julia Waterman-remote

Beck Mitchell remote

Nicole Riddell-remote

Mary Ellen Wessels remote

Beth Ashton-remote

Ashleigh Martin-remote

Corinne Kendall-remote

Tracy Farrell-remote

Brianne Fleury-remote

Jessica Mason-remote

Elizabeth Bell-remote

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Casey Phillion-Cole-remote

Mandy Darah-remote

Christina Overton-remote

Roger Ward

Susan McDonald

Amy Cooper

Mark McHugh-remote

Public Comments/Public Matters

Nicole Riddell 3rd grade teacher-Expressed her appreciation for the BO, they are caring and fair, and thanked them for all they do.

Julia Waterman 2nd grade teacher-Has been a teacher at GCCSA for 8 years and has experienced the best and worst and all the ebbs and flows through the years. The last 2 years have been exceedingly difficult in education. The staff board members and parents at GCCSA have been supportive. Expressed how valuable the board members are.

Tracy Farrell Parent-Expressed that she does not support the removal of the GCCSA BOT members.

Mary Ellen Wessels Middle School ELA teacher-Has been with the school for 7 yrs. and loves the school and expressed that the BOT members are incredibly supportive.

Susan McDonald Title 1 Teacher- Has been working in education for the past decade and feels that GCCSA has given the most opportunities to voice thoughts and opinions. Expressed her respect with the decisions that have been made through covid and the consistency of the policies.

Gemma Bates Guidance Counselor-Expressed her support for the GCCSA BOT members. They have made many tough decisions. She supports all the tough decisions that were made and proud of all the members and proud to be part of the community.

Roger Ward Middle School Science Teacher and Parent-Expressed his support for the GCCSA BOT members. He left teaching in public schools because of the lack of communication but decided to come back and teach at GCCSA. He knew the school would be collaboration with staff, admin, and BOT members. He believes the BOT make the best decisions for the situations and has always felt heard.

Beth Ashton Art Teacher-The GCCSA BOT has always been supportive of the arts, and all have excessively big hearts.

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Approval of Minutes from February 2022

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to approve the February 2022 Meeting Minutes was accepted unanimously.

Committee Reports

PTO- Sarah Thibeault- No Meeting.

Curriculum Committee- Jennifer Blanchette-See Directors Report

H/R Policy Committee- -No Meeting

PR and Community Relations committee- Sarah Thibeault- No Meeting

Grants Committee- No Meeting

Facilities Committee- Eric Charest- See Directors report

Building Committee-Danielle Charest- No meeting still waiting on Finance information

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to accept the committee meeting reports was accepted unanimously.

Finance Committee Meeting

See directors report.

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) Motion to accept the finance committee meeting reports was accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Covid Policy-Waiting on new guidance in the next 4-6 weeks.

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New Business

Petition for the removal of Board of Trustees members, Danielle Charest, Sarah Thibeault, Neil Mahoney, and Rebecca Boutin.

MOTION Motion to remove Sarah Thibeault from the Board of Trustees

Sarah Thibeault-No comment
Danielle Charest-Nay
Neil Mahoney-Nay
Rebecca Boutin-Nay
Grace Cavallo-Nay
Sarah Thibeault-Recuse

MOTION unanimously not accepted

MOTION Motion to remove Neil Mahoney from the Board of Trustees

Neil Mahoney -Expressed his love for the school and believes that the BOT has done everything in their power to keep the school safe.
Danielle Charest-Nay
Neil Mahoney-Recuse
Rebecca Boutin-Nay
Grace Cavallo-Nay
Sarah Thibeault-Nay

MOTION unanimously not accepted

MOTION Motion to remove Danielle Charest from the Board of Trustees

Danielle Charest -Expressed her appreciation for her years on the Board. There were surveys and committees set up to communicate all covid policies and had tried to have many opportunities for communication. The safety of the staff and students was always the priority and felt that the board stayed on top of adapting to all the information and changes that came out from the CDC and NH Health and Human Services.
Danielle Charest-Recuse
Neil Mahoney-Nay
Rebecca Boutin-Nay

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Grace Cavallo-Nay
Sarah Thibeault-Nay

MOTION unanimously not accepted

MOTION Motion to remove Rebecca Boutin from the Board of Trustees

Rebecca Boutin -Expressed her job on the BOT is to give the students a voice.

Danielle Charest-Nay
Neil Mahoney-Nay
Rebecca Boutin-Recuse
Grace Cavallo-Nay
Sarah Thibeault-Nay

MOTION unanimously not accepted

Directors Report

Professional Development

- PD Day March 18th

Facilities

- Discussion regarding potential expansion/renovation with landlord

DOE

- Site visit 1pm March 22nd
- I-platform training
- Commissioner calls

Finance

- 2020 & 2021 Audit: Extended until April 15th

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- IRS Tax Issue Resolved 2020
- Revenues and expenses have been registered and are up to date
- New budget template training March 21st

Community Events/Activities

- Cupcakes for Ukraine First order March 25th
- March Mammal Madness
- Raise Craze through March 28
- Alice in Wonderland May 12-13
- Art Auction/Concert May 27

Curriculum

- Term 3 Electives
 - volunteers/community teachers

State Reports

- Esser Fund Use Report Complete
- CRDC (Civil Rights Data Collection) Complete
- Duns changed to UEI Complete

Federal Grants

- Whole-School Federal Grant Audit scheduled for 5-17
- All grants reported on schedule

Enrollment

- March 9 info session complete
- K is full, 6th full, 7th & 5th nearly full
- Kindergarten Lottery March 21st

Assessment

I Ready

- Overall, School Reading:
 - 28% Above Grade Level
 - 24% On Grade Level
 - 32% Approaching Grade Level
 - 17% Two grades Below Grade Level
- Overall, School Math:
 - 13% Above Grade Level
 - 15% On Grade Level

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- 49% Approaching Grade Level
- 24% Two Grades Below Grade Level

NHSAS

- Testing will take place in April

ELL/ACCESS

- Wendy Perin DOE visit 3-14, ACCESS training and testing

Covid-19

- Current cases: 0
- Mask-Optional Update

Staffing Update

- Extremely high retention both EAs and Teachers for 2022-23
- Long-term Substitute/ 4-5 Math & Science Advertised
- Substitutes:
 - Brenda Abruzzese: 4-5 Science
 - Shailah Gagne: Middle-School Health
 - Beck Mitchell: Wellness

MOTION (Sarah Thibeault/Neil Mahoney) **Motion** to enter Nonpublic session RSA 91-A:3, II
(a) Unanimously accepted.

MOTION (Neil Mahoney/Sarah Thibeault) **Motion** to leave nonpublic session Unanimously
accepted.

MOTION (Grace Cavallo/Neil Mahoney) **Motion** to adjourn Unanimously accepted.

Next public meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM