**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**June 30th, 2015 5:00 – 7:30 PM Syringa Mountain School**

**Attending: Greg Bloomfield, Phoebe Pilaro, Ben Rogers, Bobbi Filbert**

**Additional staff: Mende Coblentz, Sandy Kelly, Svea Grover**

1. Introductions
2. Verse

*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 with the Chairman of the Board to speak.

Nancy Linscott suggested that we reach out to talk with BCSD about a workshop prior to providing all the documents they have requested.

1. Any Additions, Corrections, Modifications or Substitutions to the Current Agenda
2. Consent agenda
   1. Approval of June 3rd and June 10th Board Meeting Minutes
   2. Ben motioned to approve minutes of the above minutes. Phoebe 2nd – all in favor.
3. Old Business
   1. **Setting of Board calendar for the 2015-16 school year :**

Agreed on a once a month in person meeting then 2nd meeting in small groups if needed. 3rd Wednesday of each month will be the in person meeting. Svea will create new calendar for 2015-16 and carry over agenda items. Next three: 29th July, 19th Aug. 16th Sept. Phoebe will reach out to Ellie to check dates for next meeting with her. Hoping to meet with Ellie prior to our next board meeting. Phoebe away July 7th – 21st. Bobbi moved to approve a board calendar for 2015-16 with 1 meeting per month to be held generally on the third Wed. of each month. Board will also review policies as directed by the calendar at each monthly meeting. Ben seconded. All voted in favor.

Svea to send self -evaluation form to the board for next board meeting.

* 1. **Recruitment of Potential Board member’s discussion**

Phoebe called Randy Flood last week. Randy was not interested at this time. Greg will revisit. Phoebe also thought of Laurie Sammis due to her business and work in community. Ben will talk with Ward Loving. Greg asked Nancy Linscott if she would be interested – she will think about it. Bobbi suggested maybe bringing some of these people in on a smaller scale, more for a project work group. Could help to bring more people into the fold and become more vested.

Mark Gilbreath? Ask Ellie to help us identify those areas we can create committee work around – see where the next meeting takes us. Suggested that current board members ask potential board members to come to board meetings to see how we work etc.. Nancy suggested more of a round-table discussion format, “Round table topic” Carve out a section of time to help bring in people we think could really have great ideas etc… Ben suggested to begin the conversation by a short history of how we’ve approached the problem/task in the past. May need a facilitator, 25 min etc… Talk with Ellie at next meeting and ask for help in forming this plan.

* 1. **Reconsidering school name** :

What are pros & cons: More clarity in our name – who we are. Do people know what Charter school’s are? We just won bronze for Private school – this could be a great opportunity to educate the public on what a charter school is. Important to choose something that will have longevity & clarity.

New tag line with the current name? Syringa Mountain School – A free public charter school..

Greg suggested removing the enrolling now sign and replacing that with a banner that says “ A free Public Charter School” Check prices for new banner: Logo with A Free Public Charter School…Add the grades to the K-6th to the Now Enrolling – Svea will research -

* 1. **Discussion of work session with the BCSD Board of Trustees** Phoebe would like to have someone research & compile information from other states/schools on options before we have a discussion with BCSD and maybe even before we have a discussion within our board. May need to have more time to prove our curriculum/test scores etc…

Alturas has a different mission but is overseen by BCSD.

Discussion around lining out what we would be willing to give up as a board. Greg will talk with Paul to see how he thinks we should proceed. Would prefer an informal discussion to begin with.the BSCD board.. Mende will work with Paul & Greg to draft a letter thanking them and asking for a more informal meeting. BSCD Board Chair contact: Shawn Bennion [shawnbennion@blaineschools.org](mailto:shawnbennion@blaineschools.org)

Nancy suggests paying a paralegal to research some of the laws surrounding this issue to find case studies as examples.

Mende suggests contacting the Alliance of Public Waldorf Ed. – contact schools on the list about the governance of their schools. Try to find those as similar to Idaho as possible – not just CA who is very friendly to charters. **Mende will call the Alliance to try to get some kind of initial list of schools we may want to contact. Create list of questions so we can compare schools directly and easily compile info.**

* 1. **Discussion of preliminary state testing results**

Testing on a computer was challenging for many of our students this year. Our scores were low with some classes really showing the need for substantial support. The hiring of a general ed paraprofessional position, as well as Mende being in the role of Education Director will be essential and valuable over the next years. Mende is building in specific reading group time for 1st -3rd and leveling for math and reading for our older grades. A way to get parents involved is to ask them to advocate for a choice in test taking – pen & paper vs. computer. Some will test better on computer and some better with paper…

* 1. **Discussion of next steps in strategic planning process and notes provided by Ellie Gilbreath**: See above -

1. New Business
   1. **Employee health insurance increase**. Current plan increases by 14% this next year. Greg asked for alternative plans. Greg feels the board would be irresponsible to accept this type of increase without comparing other options. Will take serious adjustments to what we’re providing in order to avoid the 14% increase. Board would like to ask agent to research other options with a rate increase of between 6-10% . Are there Medical Savings Account options? Ben did assume a slight increase in the budget. Sandy will ask Rhiana to look into other options. Board will decide between plans at next meeting.
   2. **Approval to enter administrative agreement with Compliance Services Association for Medicaid Reimbursement services.**

Motion to approve a contract for Compliance Services Assosication for Medicaid Reimbursement Svc. By Phoebe – seconded by Ben – All approved.

1. Executive Session as Authorized by Idaho Code 67-2345b for personnel issues or other identified legitimate reasons as identified by Open Meeting Law. Motion to move into executive session made by Greg, Bobbi seconded. All agreed.
   1. Approval of staffing recommendations from the Administration.
   2. Approval of contract/job descriptions for Svea Grover, Mende Coblentz and Sandy Kelly
   3. Approval of Evaluation of Dr. Mary Gervase
   4. Need to request Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement for 6th grade incoming teacher. We were not able to find a candidate qualified K-6th to fill this role.
2. Motion to adjourn from executive session by Ben, seconded by Phoebe. All agreed.
3. Phoebe made a motion to recommend acceptance of staffing recommendations, approval of job descriptions for Svea Grover, Mende Coblentz and Sandy Kelly, approval of request for Alternative Authorization, and for the approval of Dr. Mary Gervase’s evaluation. Ben seconded. All in favor – motion passed.
4. Next board meeting date: July 29 th, 2015 beginning at 5:00 PM
5. Adjournment of June 30th, 2015 Board Meeting

*\*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.