

Syringa Mountain School
Special Board Meeting Minutes – 3/16/2022
APPROVED 4/13/22

School Staff:

Nigel Whittington-Director
Crystal Oliphant-Teacher Liaison
Shawn Meyers
Christi Thompson
Kristin Funk
Amy Schlatter
Bette Reed
Kori Paradis

Board Members:

Mike Allaire
Sandi Viau
Anthony Miller
Michele Harris
Jennifer Barrett-Neet

Public attendance:

John Casey
Patricia Aoyama
Tamara Baker
Jane Alexander
Megan Burns
Lindsay Jameson

5:30 TIME Quorum is present

- I. Public comment:
 - A. Tamara Baker- Has questions about the policy on exposure to covid. She is wondering why we shut down classes with exposure.
- II. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of 2/15/22 Board Meeting-Mike motioned to approve, Michele seconded
 - B. Approval of 2/28/22 Special Board Meeting-Mike motioned to approve, Michele seconded
 - C. Approval of 3/9/22 Work Session Board Meeting-Mike motioned to approve, Anthony seconded
 - D. Approval of 3/10/22 Work Session Board Meeting-Mike motioned to approve, Michele seconded
 1. All carries
- III. Old Business
 - A. Financial Update-
 1. Pulling about 200k from reserves, we need to fundraise more
 - B. Teacher Update
 1. Some teachers are concerned about removing the masks. Questions have risen and they feel like they need more direction from the board.
 2. CDC updating quarantine periods for 5 days, and a strict mask use for 5 more days. “Well fitted mask”
 3. Concerns about HIPPA and sending children home who aren’t vaccinated.
 4. 2 letters from teachers. Wanting clarification
 - C. Parent Council update
 1. Updated grant

2. Looking for more community
 3. Enrollment and marketing
 4. Action plan
 5. Mayfair
 6. Yoga retreat
 7. Fundraising
- D. Lottery Close Update
1. 100 students, concerning because we usually drop 25%
 2. We have room in every classroom
 3. We went to a digital confirmation so Christi will reach out to current families.

IV. New Business

- A. Strategic Plan Update
1. Using the strategic plan to reiterate what the priorities are and making sure all aspects are portrayed through an “action plan”.
 2. Action plan may help clarify/translate.
 3. Action plan will be shared with the original committee to review.
- B. Procedures and process to vetting and approving SMS Board Members
1. Is there an application process? Questions?
 2. Should we Background checks, Fingerprints?
 3. Need to go into executive session, discussion about candidate
 - a) Add this conversation to the agenda/policy
- C. Board Policies: Spring Updates (1120, 1600 Code of Ethics, 1610, 2460, 2500, 2530, 2640, 3000, 3570, 8115, 8320, 8520, 8605), Parent Email responses Feb2022 ISBA Webinar
1. Updating policies from ISBA
 - a) All members agree
 2. Reminder to the board, to reply thank you for your comment from parents. Then the board will bring it to the board or school.
 3. Would like to add “future discussion” to our agenda because we can add to the meeting agenda until the start of meeting.
- D. Approve monthly payables
1. Printer conversation- keep the old instead of pay to send back. It is worth is financially
 2. Payables approved - Mike Allaire motioned to approve, Anthony Miller seconded
- E. Introduction of potential new board member Jonathan Casey
1. Daughter in the 3rd grade. Would like to join the board because teachers have asked for parent involvement. Asked around with the parent community but not many parents were interested. Wants to be more involved in child's education and interested in the common core component to the strategic plan/charter renewal. Been on boards and raised funds for nonprofits. Experience in community organizing. Electrician.
- F. Summer melt prevention campaign
1. Jane Alexander presented a student/family retention program
 2. She highly suggested monthly contact with incoming families throughout the summer and organize a back-to-school orientation for the fall.
- G. Accept staff resignation
1. 1 staff member resigned-Received letter from Keith Davis
- H. Discuss opening up teacher position for hire
1. Possible internal transition-possible break to current looping process
 2. Post advertisement for one K-4 teacher position and one 5-8 position
 3. Staff hiring committee
 4. Shoot to begin process after spring break
 5. Hiring for Farm and garden position, if budget allows
 - a) Looking at skills for this position when hiring other positions

- I. Syringa Yoga Retreat-
 - 1. Board approves to move forward with retreat, parent council needs to proceed by connecting with insurance and payments.
 - 2. Kristin Funk will reach out to the insurance company
- J. Covid - abandon quarantine recommendations/contact tracing?
 - 1. Nigel is stretched with how many hours needed to put in to manage covid related work.
 - a) Would like to follow the CDC because most researched based
 - b) Also feels like it is parents responsibility to keep their children safe
 - c) Wants medical guidance
 - d) Adopt blaine county policy until able to

Policy- Follow Blaine County School District return to school policy dated March 2022. Will use the blue portion but use our own illness policy for the pink/red section. Mike made a motion, Michele second, all in favor. Will have a work session on the 6th of April at 5:30. [Link](#)

- K. Covid -
 - 1. Visitor choice
- L. Summer Van Lease to Lindsay Jameson
 - 1. Using the old van. She will cover insurance and cleared through DMV
- M. Board Training -
 - 1. Money for training. Sessions online, or other ways.

V. Executive time- 8:40

A. Mike, Michele, Jennifer, Anthony, Nigel, Christi,

VI. Out of Executive Session and into regular session- 9:27

A. Attendees: Tamara Baker, Antthony Miller, Michele Harris, Nigel Whittington, Kristin Funk, Jennifer Barrett-Neet, Mike Allaire

B. Board had consensus on approving Johnathan Casey to join the board.

END TIME- 9:28