

Minutes of The Greenspire School
Board of Education - Regular Meeting
May 23rd, 2016
Unapproved

1. Call to Order & Roll Call: President Kurt Sanford called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the Math Commons area. Present: Kurt Sanford, Matthew Missias, Raymond Minervini, Tara Ward, Gina Aranki, Meagan Batdorff.
2. Changes or Additions to Agenda: None
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Minervini to approve the regular meeting minutes on April 18th, 2016, seconded by Aranki, voice vote; 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried. Motion by Aranki to approve the special meeting minutes on April 20th, 2016 seconded by Ward, voice vote; 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None
5. Recognitions: None
6. Board Correspondence: None
7. Presentations: None
8. Reports:
 - a. Head of School and Superintendent's Report: Kelly thanked the board and staff for their compassion during his absences in April. Auditors are in town from Maner Costerisan. The Michigan Association of School Boards has changed its policy and will now allow Charter Schools that are authorized by a K-12 public school to join so Greenspire is now eligible. Kelly recapped the 8th grade field trip, mentioned several upcoming events including 8th grade graduation, The Cook's House fundraiser brunch, first Greenspire yearbook, and the lock-in this weekend. He provided an enrollment update and mentioned the loss of the custodian.
 - b. President's Report: Sanford offered condolences to Kevin Kelly and his family. Executive committee met and would like to now have an alternate person, Tara Ward, as secretary. This item will be added to next month's discussion.
 - c. Treasurer's Report: Batdorff reviewed financial documents and reported they are in good standing.
 - d. Finance: Looked through budget and discussed increasing superintendent's salary 3% with a possibility of up to 4% merit increase midyear. Will also consider 3% increases for staff.
 - e. Facilities: Sanford mentioned all systems are running well. Kelly mentioned that the cracked window in Maple will be replaced after July. Also there is an ant infestation that is currently being treated.
 - f. Grants: Aranki mentioned a need for rejuvenation for grants. Sanford would like to see a part time position for more opportunities. Board discussed how the school can get someone that can possibly handle admissions and grant applications.

- g. Advancement: Aranki said we will be reapplying for the Grand Traverse Band grant in June.
 - h. Family Teacher Council: Ward reviewed the minutes from the recent meeting and stated they will meet in June before graduation. They will also meet in August for fall planning.
 - i. Personnel: Missias reported on the interview with the P.E. candidate, and discussed the custodial position.
 - j. Curriculum: Ward reviewed minutes from the last meeting.
9. Discussion Items:
- a. Treasurer's Report: Batdorff wanted input of what the board would like to see in her report. Board discussed and a balance sheet with explanations was requested.
 - b. Greenspire Charitable Foundation: Batdorff stated a meeting needs to be set in June to discuss the need to keep the foundation. She recommends keeping it and developing a foundation board with a President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Can work with Grants and Advancement to secure grants.
 - c. 2016-17 Budget: Kelly reviewed major changes of budget items.
 - d. Potential Future Growth: Sanford opened discussion with information regarding timeline for acquiring more land and needing a plan for growth. Minervini stated the stakeholder meetings were insightful, issues to consider are the footprint we have on sight, carline issues and the dynamic of the group, but we need to balance the numbers and the board needs more information. How can the school grow in a healthy way that addresses the economics? Ward felt that the slow growth model that was presented is a good option. Aranki felt this was clearly the most supported option. Batdorff said that the catch 22 is that the cost to accommodate 5-10 students in the current buildings is not cost effective. Sanford said he felt that a high school is a viable option for Greenspire. We could do something portable or permanent and with an increase in numbers, that could sustain starting a high school and the shared resources of administration. Ward is concerned that since the slow growth model was presented as an option, there could be hard feelings if it is not addressed. Batdorff said that growth has to be done, but giving the staff tools to make sure that the culture of the school is preserved is important. The board needs to have strategic planning to present to parents what the mission and strategies are. Missias stated that a short term solution could be slow growth but we need more accurate numbers to make sure it works financially to get through the next few years. Sanford noted that starting the process of growth is not building, it is acquiring the land. Missias emphasized the culture of the school, and said he felt that it would not be disrupted by growth, there are other models and the logistics could be worked out. He felt the slow growth plan would give time to work out the long term growth. He also stated that a ninth grade class could be an option for a bridge to fill up the new building if needed. He would like to see a holistic seven year plan with details. Sanford stated that by doing nothing we are limiting options, we can back out at any time with minimal costs. We have to make a leap to some number to make it work. Ward stated she was disappointed that the slow growth numbers aren't going to work. The board discussed how any of these options might not be feasible, there are many factors that could change the plan. It will take two and a half years before a new building is ready. They noted that there is not any Charter school with 105 students; it is not a long term option. Kelly noted that we have already

been through a fast growth, from 67 to 105 in eighteen months. He said he likes the slow growth numbers but it has issues, such as pod numbers increasing to 23 students and/or going to 6 pods which leads to classroom issues. He said the numbers show that the school needs to grow. Sanford suggested putting an action item to move forward with careful planning. Minervini suggested moving forward with land acquisition. The decision was made for two actions items in June: one for land acquisition, another for facilities committee to start looking at short term and long term planning.

- e. Spring Policy Updates: Kelly discussed updates but the board members never finalized how they will divide up the updates. Two board members each will read one update to be able to come back to the board if they have any suggestions.

10. Action Items:

- a. Board Nominations :
 - i. Dodd Russell; Motion by Missias to appoint Dodd Russell to the board, Batdorff seconded, voice vote; 6 ayes, 0 nays.
 - ii. Kim Hagerty; board is recommending postponing her recommendation
- b. Physical Education Hiring Recommendations; Motion by Missias, second by Minervini to hire Katie Tomczyk as the Physical Education Teacher voice vote; 6 ayes, 0 nays.

11. Public Comment: Kelly Francisco stated that the staff is aware that the school can't stay at 105 students but encouraged the board to look at remodeling options in Maple to accommodate another classroom of students, which would allow more time to plan for larger growth.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Minervini to adjourn meeting, seconded by Ward, voice vote; 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Eric Breithaupt
Recording Secretary