

**PVPA Board of Trustees
February 9th, 2016
Ladenheim Library**

Present: Jim Barnhill, Robert Brainin, Will Decherd, Scott Goldman, Kim Hicks, Gary Huggett, Deb Jacobson, Berri Jacques, Trace McLaurin, Sean Moore, Geoff Sumi, Melinda Winter.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Deb Jacobson reads PVPA Mission Statement

Motion to approve minutes from 1.19.16 Meeting

6 yes, 1 abstention

Motion passes.

President's Business:

Revisiting proposal on revised administrative structure

Clarification requested on financial details of restructuring

Response: Any additional cost will be more than made up with the focus on fundraising. It isn't seen as having a negative impact. It will cost \$10,000 more for the position shift depending upon the salary of the biology teacher position. The Friends of PVPA will contribute to the operating budget instead of the philanthropy budget for the Manager of Philanthropy position.

Some reasons for this change include the outcome of the site visit/charter renewal report. Assessment and instruction are areas that we are going to have to show improvement in to have our conditions removed and to increase our enrollment. To expand our enrollment, we must have proven provider status, which will mean being at level 1 for three years.

The work we are going to be focusing on over the next three years is about instruction and assessment throughout all grades. This does not seem like an issue of middle school versus high school. Some curricular departments are further along than others in this effort. We also have work to do to prepare for when we have ELL students.

If this proposal is approved, the Arts Program Director and Associate Academic Programs Director will be posted during February Break.

VOTE on proposal

6 yes. 3 abstaining

Motion is approved.

Finance: Robert Brainin

The state looks at the enrollment we have on February 15th and they use that number to determine our final tuition for the year. We are starting to create the budget for next year. There will be a draft for the next Board meeting.

Governance:

We met last Tuesday to discuss Board membership. We will put a notice in Friday notes to solicit new members with experience in the arts or finance.

Bylaws: We want our bylaws to more factually describe what the board actually does. When meeting with our attorney, we discovered some issues. One was regarding indemnification: if there is a claim brought against board members, then the school will pick up any legal fees. If a claim is brought against the Friends Board, does the school also pick up those legal fees? One resolution could be ask the Friends Board to write a letter to remove the bylaws from applying to them.

In regards to the phrase that the Board will ensure the school's academic success, the board cannot ensure this as they do not engage in the daily managing of the school. No group of people can actually ensure academic success, but it seems that the state still wants that assurance.

Our legal counsel's concern: if we try to remove the state's boilerplate language from our bylaws, it would be seen as a change that could call our charter into question or require us to make a change to our charter. Mark Keenan is a resource to us in some of this problem solving.

We should find out what the state means by "ensure" and question the regulation definition in this context. Alternatively, we could add to the bylaws that the trustees are not liable. There is hope to have the opportunity to change the language before adding the liability clause.

Ideas: Write "act in ways to ensure," or put in our definition of what we mean by ensure as opposed to the dictionary definition.

The state has data on what constitutes a successful school district. We are currently an academic success. If we are determined by the state to not be an academic success, then the Board would have some decisions to make about the Head of School. When Education Reform Law was passed in Massachusetts, it dramatically changed the role of school committees. Charter school boards are seen very similar to school boards.

AD-HOC Committee for Evaluation of HoS:

It may be helpful to involve someone else in the statistical analysis of this data as Berri will not serve on the Board forever. We could reach out to Bill Miller at UMASS who helped with our diversity survey.

Strategic Action Plan Update: Will Decherd

Over 100 parents completed our SAP survey (25% of our parents).

There were 12 focus groups (4 student, 4 faculty, 4 family, and 4 individual interviews)

We now have quantitative data from the survey and qualitative data from the focus groups.

Throughout March, we will come up with goals for the ten categories we have outlined for the new Strategic Action Plan. We will try to have a final draft for the May Board meeting to vote on in June.

We do need to plan a date for a Board Focus Group.

We have been collecting data and now look forward to sharing trends we have found at the next Board meeting.

Students: Noah Hornick and Trace McLaurin

A few student council members have shared plans for a change to our open mic structure. Our main issue was that there was not good attendance at the optional open mics that were happening during lunch. We are instead going to propose all-school open mics during lunch which will be mandatory once a month. We hope to revive the desire to perform for peers. There are going to be more frequent middle school open mics however (bi-weekly). One student council member has posted this on his class' Facebook page and there didn't seem to be a bad reaction.

We are aware that food cannot be brought into the theater and so open mic will start at 1:00pm on these Fridays. Open Mics are also a great time for new tech students to train.

Teachers: Will Dechard and Gary Huggett

Reflection on Paideia and the absence of teaching our subject area, and then the February break coming up again. We are getting back into our routine, but the two snow days were a bit of a challenge to trying to build momentum before February break.

Head of School/Development- Scott Goldman

In the Fall, Robert and Scott went to a conference with NEMNET and this past Saturday there was a recruitment fair. Potential candidates were encouraged to come out to the area, and spend a day at the school if they were interested, even if there isn't a position for them at this time. Recruiting and retaining diverse staff is one of our goals in strategic plan.

PVPA is about to launch a new data team which is comprised of teachers and administrators who will look at data, as is recommended by the state. Four members were recently sent to a training about data teams.

Paideia: Two years ago we discussed the length of Paideia (two weeks versus three weeks). The Paideia Committee is going to be making a recommendation on the length of Paideia after their meeting and looking over surveys given out in January.

"Families of PVPA" is a new parent group with different subcommittees working on some upcoming events.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Melemed