

**PVPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**May 12, 2015**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**School Library**  
**15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, Massachusetts**

*Present: Scott Goldman, Rachel Dionne, Kim Hicks, Robert Brainin, Deborah Jacobson, Gary Smith, Will Decherd, Mary Cantler, Asha Strazzero-Wild, Geoff Sumi, Jim Barnhill, Berri Jacque, Kate Nelson, Guest: Benjamin Barrett "Seth"*

**PVPA Mission Statement**

**Public Comment** (10 minutes allowed)

- NA

**Approval of Minutes** from 4.14.15 meeting

- Correct the minutes from last meeting
  - Motion to approve: Accepted pending the corrections, unanimous approval

**Finance** – Robert Brainin, Deborah Jacobson

- Approval of proposed budget
  - Motion to approve: One abstention, all others approved
    - Some new costs: New/updated chrome books, security cameras for new space, etc.
  - Motion to approve the Capital budget: One abstention, all others approved
    - Capital spending out of reserves – should be OK to put out money in advance of campaign
    - We used to receive funding at the end of each quarter – now state is reimbursing at the end of each month so we are in good shape

**Development** - Mary Cantler

- Goal is \$50K, right now we are at \$47K
  - Good position to reach annual fund goal
  - Pre-event at Jake's (Pirates of Penzance) for Board members and families- event that showed the renderings of new building and short films from students. Will try to do another event in June.
  - Please follow up with Mary if you'd like to host an event at your home to help inspire other prospective donors.
  - Parents are getting interested in really understanding how to get involved and leverage other resources in the area (Amherst College).

**Governance**—Geoff Sumi

- Update on Personnel Advisory Board
  - Last few meetings focused on grievances procedures. Met with PAB and invited Scott/Robert to join. Outcome is to have Scott and members of the PAB redraft the PAB to redefine role in grievance process- Will will help in the re-drafting process (helped to create the PAB and been involved in all recent discussions).
  - Will also examine the language of the staff handbook to ensure it's also in line with the PAB procedures.
- Filling vacant faculty seat
  - Jean will leave Board because of new position in the Fall; Will was going to finish out her term but decided it was better to have the faculty/staff have a formal election. Will can stand for election for the one year term and another open spot for the two year term (versus appointing Will to the one year term).

- Check in: Required paperwork for Board members
  - Turn in all paperwork to Geoff Sumi
- Agenda for Annual Meeting (“retreat”)
  - Date: Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00 (In addition to the June meeting- does not replace the June meeting)
  - Agenda Items:
    - Board leadership planning
    - Role of the Board of Trustees in PVPA Governance
    - SAP progress report (could have other folks attend and put this first so people could leave after)
  - Prep: Governance will send around an agenda for folks to discuss
- Fall orientation for new student reps on the Board
  - Provide them with a sense of what the Board does and obligations/ expectations are

**President’s Business—Kim Hicks**

- Proposed change to Head of School contract re: evaluation dates
  - In the HoS contract, the date for the contract renewal is April 15. This should also be the date of the evaluation; historically difficult to get this completed before April 15. Bring this more in line with academic year and push to June.
  - Scott/HoS is fine to push back renewal date to June.
  - Motion to proceed with steps necessary to make the renewal coincide with HoS evaluation (Kim to meet with Scott and Wheatley): One abstention, all others approved
- New Diversity Statement
  - Cover in the HoS report from Scott

**Head of School - Scott Goldman**

- Head of School report
  - Filled all positions for next year
  - Want to have a delineated procedure for succession of the HoS (could cover in the Board Annual Meeting). Scott has provided some notes that could be the starting point for a document that outlines plan and steps for future use.
  - Charter renewal application must be received by July 31. One of the things that is required before that renewal application can be sent is a vote of the BoT to approve the content of what’s in the renewal application. Scott plans to provide an outline that hits all the points of what will be included/ documents at the June meeting- will not have a final draft by the second week of June. Board needs to decide whether to vote on what Scott can present or meet again in July so that we can approve the document in its entirety. Will be submitting an amendment re: # of students so it will be important to examine the new language in that (always need to have over 400 or we are penalized- cannot go more than 412 due to classroom size)
    - Scott will see what days will work mid-month for everyone attend a meeting
- New Diversity Statement (see notes at end)
  - Strategic Action Plan outlined this – it’s done. Diversity statement is simply a statement of our philosophy of how we look at and value diversity at PVPA.
  - Will work with Scott and others on the Diversity Plan- will feed into the SAP section on diversity. The Plan will be the action steps for PVPA internally. There may be other Board specific issues.
  - Will be in student and staff handbook, will be on the website, perhaps will incorporate into the mission statement. Also informs what we do around Diversity issues.
  - Would like to have the Board formally accept the Diversity statement
    - Motion to approve the diversity statement: One abstention, all others

approved

- School Climate Survey
  - Goal: Get a picture of how our students feel about PVPA; want to disaggregate data and look at it through different lenses (race, socio economics, parents ed, gender, etc.)
  - Process: Hired Bill Miller from UMass (parent) who helped with the survey design (professional survey)- met with the Diversity committee to review questions and understand what type of information the group wanted to identify-> crafted a survey that everyone felt comfortable with and administered.
  - Data set: Don't think we have the full range of data from seniors; was done at the end of Community Day and some seniors departed.
  - Outcomes/Next steps: Data shared in all faculty meeting; found it was hard for folks to process in a way that allowed us to take steps. Brought Bill back (Diversity committee etc.) and the Diversity coordinators/ Scott/ Llama to narrow down data to decide what to use to create an action plan. Survey is one piece of the data that informs the next steps with the Diversity Plan. Given the small sample of racial categories, cannot take definitive steps to addressing single group; using general categories. Will work with Bill on next steps and Diversity Committee (Leigh Ellen and Frank).
    - Diversity Survey
    - Disciplinary Data
    - Retention and Graduation rates
    - Grades (looking at them by race and disability)
  - Surprising: Themes from 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade, some very positive things like having someone you can speak with, deep relationships, other pieces that gave pause like students of color feeling less connected and less comfortable. Lots to dig into.
  - Sample size: Will continue to administer and look for patterns in coming years. We know that this is not a huge sample size but the conversations and questions this survey generates are important.

### Space

- Building Expansion Project Update
  - Going to do an official ground breaking photo opp on June 5<sup>th</sup> during field day at lunch so students can be there; all welcome to join and we will be inviting press to come

### Students—Kate Nelson

- Everyone is excited about the new building; generally positive attitude
- Gathering feedback for renovations on lounge

### Staff - Will Decherd

- Jeanne is out sick
- Faculty is good right now; in the midst of MCAS- most organized and seamless MCAS season yet; Llama has done great work on this. Good conversations with students about culture around testing and squashing rumors about school being shut down for bad test scores.
- Just had Teacher Appreciation week and had treats delivered to our desks- things are good!

### Open Session - for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- Kim: Heard that we do not have enough Board participation in the annual fund. For the next meeting, will bring envelopes for folks. Would like to say 100% participation.
- Berri: HoS survey went out but Board not included the first time. Will be getting link soon!

**Public Comment** (10 minutes allowed)

- NA

**Executive Session** (appears whether or not used)

- To discuss resolution of a complaint
- Participants: Berri, Jim, Rachel, Kim, Deborah, Gary, Geoff, Asha

**Adjourn**

**PVPA Diversity Statement**

The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School recognizes the importance of critical thinking and creative learning in our ever-evolving and culturally expansive world. We support a faculty that reflects the shared wisdom of a global village, a student body that represents our community's multi-layered and changing cultural experience, and policies that promote inclusiveness as the cornerstones of our educational philosophy.

We believe that all students are capable of reaching their full potential, and we encourage all students to be engaged and empowered citizens of the world. Our students will acquire a deep understanding of privilege and agency so that they may build a learning community committed to positive social change.

Our school encourages and promotes the notion that faculty, staff, administration, families and students of intersecting identities allow for greater diversification of experiences in our community. This diversity fosters an environment where deep and meaningful connections can be forged and celebrated.

PVPA provides an objective forum for discussion and critical thinking on issues that involve social, cultural, and identity differences, with the goal of building a respectful community that understands, empathizes, embraces and celebrates all the people of the world.