

PVPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Agenda
November 18, 2014
School Library
15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, Massachusetts

In attendance: Kim Hicks, Rachel Dionne, Scott Goldman, Berri Jacque, Robert Branin, Donovan Arthen, Gary Smith, Jeane Powers, Mary Cantler, Geoff Sumi, Deborah Jacobson, Kate Nelson, Will Maldonado

PVPA Mission Statement – Read by Kim Hicks

Public Comment (10 minutes allowed) - None

Approval of Minutes from 10.14.14 and 10.21.14

10/21 minutes:

- Gary- suggests adding attendees for special meeting and not using the initials “GS” to avoid confusion
- Kim – Change “agenda” to “minutes”
- Motion to accept: Jean Second: Donovan

President’s Business—Kim Hicks

- Welcome to two potential Board members: Sean Moore and Janet Rivera
- School history—representing and honoring the past
 - Kim was approached by Ljuba Marsh to speak about potential relations and collaborations between PVPA and Paulo Friere
 - Wanted to talk about her and Bob’s relationship with PVPA, and how PVPA relates to its history and the founder’s roles in that history.
 - PVPA is in a transitional place, and it merits some reflection and thought as to how we honor our history.
 - There was some sort of “benign prank” that made light of Ljuba’s portrait, which precipitated the call.
 - Perhaps some kind of display of PVPA’s history in the foyer/atrium of the new theater. (similar to the Calvin Theater? Or an art exhibit)
 - School librarian has paidea leave this year, and will be creating a “PVPA archive.”
 - A preference for general history vs. specific personalities.

- Potential naming possibility for high level of donation toward the building.
- Student exchanges with South Hadley public schools
 - Some concerns have been raised surrounding the impact that collaborations with S. Hadley students might have on the internal community of PVPA.
 - Scott elaborated that the main conversation is surrounding exchanges of seats within various classes that are not offered at each school.
 - There is at least one positive example in PVPA's past
 - Is there some kind of orientation that we could give to these students to help them merge more fully into the PVPA culture?
 - Shadow for a day?
 - Both ways!
 - Rob: students who would choose to pursue this option are sort of self-selecting and would probably have an inclination toward what PVPA is like.
 - Some kind of lottery process?
 - Perhaps some students from S. Hadley who are on the waiting list?
 - Example of how it could work: Play writing is currently running with 3 students. Ideally this would be with 10 or 12; it is a 9-12 grade level class. It would have been great to have some interested students join that class.
 - If there were openings within classes then we could offer some spaces to students from outside PVPA.
 - One other concern was how academic and learning accommodations are handled, along with behavior discipline.
 - General sense is that there is overall support as long as the logistics can be worked out, and we are cognizant of how the cultural differences might be handled.
 - Scott will continue the conversation and return to the board with a more fleshed out proposal for the boards potential approval.

Finance – Robert Brainin, Deborah Jacobson

- Committee met a couple of weeks ago, and thus far (only 1/3 of the way through) we seem to be tracking on schedule.
- Transportation deficits are being investigated and addressed.
- There was request about more information regarding the income from October fest this year.

Development - Mary Cantler and Sheila Mulholland

- Annual fund: amount of pledged dollars are significantly higher this year then were at this time last year.
 - Some earlier donations, some larger donations/new donations

- Goal for this year is \$50,000.00
- Capital Campaign
 - Strategizing around major donors with a small campaign committee
- Updating donor database
- Alum story to be shared: Emma Sokolof Rueben 2007
- Stuart Singer 2003 received a Bessy (spelling?) award

Governance—Gary Smith, Geoff Sumi

- Nomination of new Board member Jim Barnhill
 - Nomination was accepted unanimously
- GC proposal for updating Strategic Plan
 - Proposing a smaller committee
 - 4 parents
 - 2 mid
 - 2 high
 - 1 admin
 - 2 students
 - 3 teachers
 - 1 with institutional memory
 - 1 newer higher
 - A math Teacher
 - An Arts teacher
 - Part time teacher?
 - 2 board members
 - 1 staff
 - Committee could decide its own chairing structure
 - Perhaps an allum?
 - Using current strategic plan as a starting point to build a new/extended strategic plan.
 - Timeline:
 - Convened committee by January
 - Progress report to board by June 2015
 - 1st version presented to community for fall 2015
 - Feedback gained by online survey and community forums
 - Survey opening OCT 1
 - Nov 2015 – Feb 2016 □ Committee read feedback
 - Revisions offered by the committee to the board at the May Meeting.
 - Motion to create Ad-Hoc strategic planning committee □ Geoff
 - Second: Jean
 - Accepted Unanimously
 - There needs to be a clarified process as to how representatives will

be selected.

- Perhaps an application process?
- The governance committee will determine a selection/solicitation process at their meeting on Dec 2nd at PVPA at 6pm.
- Notification of open meeting law: remote attendance (phone or Skype) is allowed
 - However quorum cannot be reached through remote attendance
- Gary Smith's 2 year term as a parent will not be shortened, but his status will change to "community member" after his son graduates
 - The board will need to solicit another parent rep to fill that hole.

Head of School - Scott Goldman

- Head of School report
 - DOE visit went well
 - Main focus was on the progress on the math conditions
 - 3 conditions we're placed upon us
 - 2 of those have been met at the "highest level of meetinghood"
 - 1 cannot be met until next year
 - Scott: there is a movement within the accountability movement that undervalues the professional opinion of teachers
 - Much more focus on data and standardized practices
 - In the past PVPA has sometimes come close to ignoring data – and that's not ok
 - However there has to be a middle ground that allows for both accountability and creativity and multiple learning styles.
- Revisiting the driving-off-campus policy
 - Scott is looking for feedback from the board
 - Currently students are not allowed to drive or be driven by others students when leaving school grounds during the school day.
 - Suggested reworking of various wordings:
 - Address the JOL limitation to apply for off campus lunch privileges
 - Make sure to close loops in language surrounding parental permissions.
 - Perhaps issuing a pass or a car sticker
 - Primarily a concern surrounding the safety of our students, and also a liability concern for the school.
 - Perhaps limiting these changes to only seniors.
 - If the results of the online survey seem to come back with a positive response, then the administration will make a decision.

- Professional development
 - Would be good to invite Lama, Laura Davis, and Mike Hays to come to a board meeting in the spring to present and inform on about professional development.
 - And also to give a broader sense of the school's educational programs.
- Parent/Teacher conferences went really well.
- "We came to play tour" just happened and was a great success.

Space

- Building Expansion Project Update
 - In the bid document development phase.
 - Deadline = mid December
 - Project will go out for public bidding either just before, or just after the holidays.
 - Hopefully the bids will come in at, or below, anticipated budget.

Students— Michaela Moreau, Emma Fraizer, Kate Nelson, Will Maldonado

Staff - Jeanne Powers, Will Decherd

- Paidea course catalogue just went out
- Arts and academic enhancement and integration in the classroom is getting a lot of attention and focus across the board, and that is going really well.
- Professional learning communities are going very well so far.

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

- Deb is asking VLO (Valley Light Opera) if they can support the production of Pirates.
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Public Comment (10 minutes allowed)

Executive Session (appears whether or not used)

Aye:

Kim Hicks

Geoff Sumi

Deb Jacobson

Gary Smith

Berri Jacque

Rachel Dionne

Donovan Arthen

Adjourn

