

**PVPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 9, 2014**  
**School Library**  
**15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, Massachusetts**

**Members in Attendance:** Jean Powers, Will Decherd, Geoff Sumi, Gary Smith, Donovan, Berri Jacque, Asha Strazzero-Wild, Emma Fraizer (student)

**Also in attendance:** Scott Goldman (HOS), Kim Hicks (President), Robert Brainin (CFO), Mary Cantler (Development)

**PVPA Mission Statement:** PVPA offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

**Public Comment** (10 minutes allowed)

**Approval of Minutes** from May and June meetings

- **Motion to approve: unanimous approval**

**President's Business**—Kim Hicks

- Welcome new student members
- Vote on revised Head of School evaluation
- **Motion to approve: unanimous approval**
- Committee assignments
- **Governance: Kim, Gary, Asha, Will, Geoff (appointed)**
- **Finance: Deb, Rachel, Robert (recruitment?)**
- **Development: Donovan, Jean, Mary, Sheila- committee of the Friends**
- Recruitment: what membership needs does the Board have, and how will we fill them?
- **We are at minimum of 15, max is 20**
- **Possible areas for support: media/ PR, performing arts or visual arts representation**
- **Next step: board members to brainstorm members for discussion at next meeting**
- Mission statement re: extensive exposure to the performing arts. Update?
- **Scott to discuss with Diversity Co-Chairs. Potentially re-write in light of new charter. Discussion of what the purpose is- to recruit students, teachers, etc. What we do vs How we do it. Adding something about community.**
- **Next step: Scott to propose who might be able to help get involved in this**

**Finance** – Robert Brainin

- **Annual audit took place over the summer and will report back in October**

- Financing of new space closed June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Projection from pre-enrollment report shows that we receive less than projected- new projection in another month

#### **Development - Mary Cantler and Sheila Mulholland**

- **EOY Update:**
  - Goal for annual fund \$50K, fell short by \$10K
  - Similar # of donors from last year and year before (2 donors gave significant \$ the previous year and not last year)
  - Discussion with Friends Board about major donors
  - Average donor is \$150-200/year
  - Working on fundraising strategy

#### **Governance—Gary Smith**

- **Bylaws need to be updated (2010 version)- Gary to update and propose vote for next meeting**
  - Section 2.9: Something to state “end to a term” – all membership terms will terminate on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the final term year
  - Section 3.6: Annual meeting to be held in May of each year – Call it an annual meeting, not a retreat
  - Motion to vote Gary back to the board for 2 years – UNANIMOUS VOTE

#### **Head of School - Scott Goldman**

- Head of School report
- See HOS Report
- Gary: Please explain new lottery system
- Scott: New 7<sup>th</sup> graders and everyone else who applied, past practice was to create waiting lists and then we would contact everyone on the waitlist via email/phone to ask if they want to remain on the waitlist. If they say yes, then they stay on the waitlist. Now, next year and thereafter, will only be on the waitlist for that school year. Each year now the deck re-shuffled.
- Everyone currently on the list now until their grade graduates but not future students.
- Gary: Displeased with this change; possibility of doing something about this?
- MA Charter Group Association is very active and could address concern about this change. Political action agenda meetings monthly- they will lobby for certain things. Could come from board or parents.
- Only way to jump over waitlist is with the siblings (sibling lottery, non sibling lottery, regular lottery)
- Governance committee to draft a statement to bring to the board for the next meeting
- Scott: Charter School association meeting coming up and we can learn how other schools are handling and why

## Space

- Building Expansion Project Update

## Students

- Emma Fraizer is new student rep (10<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 3-4 applications for every opening
  - Had first council meeting; started discussing engagement

## Staff - Jeanne Powers, Will Decherd

- Smoothest start yet
- Teacher orientation was great; good morale, excitement about theater
- School feels like we are moving in a good direction
- Collaborative time for staff outside of traditional time; professional learning communities
- Request: Could we do a catered teacher appreciation dinner (maybe Board sponsored?)
- Request: Outlining roles of Will/Jean to help other faculty understand roles
- For students/staff: Here's what we discussed/ my perception/ official minutes posted on website. Note: Each grade has their own PVPA page.
- Could do more between board and faculty around curricular initiatives
- Curriculum info: Karen Kaiser and Jean in LGBTIQ class on intersex (book: Middlesex) and the genetics behind it. Will be presenting at a conference in DC. Friends will be funding the trip. One of only two schools doing work like this (Amherst High School).
- Apprentice teacher program (Collaborative for Educational Services- Hampshire Education Collaborative): Program designed to help apprentice teachers understand the PVPA position but also help them do some things to apply for license (specifically in sped and math)
- Paideia update: Committee met 5 times in spring and once in summer, also meeting in the fall (committee includes students). Examining structures to put in place to ensure rigorous learning and equity across all courses. There is now a mission, motto and criteria so that they are all valuable- course objectives, etc. Rolling out with Dept leaders this week and teachers will start proposing in the next month. As a committee we've made a recommendation to stay with 3 weeks and that there is no recommendation until after this year. Very positive feedback on structure, support and clarity.

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

- Next step: Nov 18<sup>th</sup> meeting date to be confirmed- Doodle to be set up by Donovan

**Public Comment** (10 minutes allowed)

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

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56