

**The Greene School
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
94 John Potter Road Unit 3
West Greenwich, RI
Wednesday, November 18th, 2015 at 6:30PM**

Open Session:

Call to order: meeting began at 6:35PM

Members present: Amy Pratt, Laura Clavette, Jen Sherer, Dick West, Kelly Presley, Octavia Abell, Mary Jane Sorrentino, Paul Morse, (Quorum met with 8/10 members present)

Non-members present: Mr Laplante (Head of School), Ms. Lisa Cash (Business Manager) and Ms. Alex Edelman (Dean of students)

Reading of the Mission Statement: read by Ms. Jen Sherer

Public Comment (15 minute limit): No-one from the public spoke during this time

Approval of the October 21st 2015 open and closed meeting minutes: The closed minutes were read out loud by Amy Pratt

Octavia made a motion to approve the October 21st open and closed meeting minutes. Dick 2nd. All agreed unanimously.

Conduct nomination/election to the Board of all 5 seats

It was announced that Christa Andrews has resigned from the Board of Directors

Paul made a motion to nominate Amy Pratt to the Board for a 2 year term. Dick 2nd. All agreed unanimously.

Laura made a motion to nominate Gayle to the Board for a 2 year term. Mary Jane 2nd. All agreed unanimously. Laura made a motion to nominate Dick to the Board for a 2 year term. Amy 2nd. All agreed unanimously. Laura made a motion to nominate Paul to the Board for a 2 year term. Dick 2nd. All agreed unanimously. Laura made a motion to nominate Octavia to the Board for a 2 year term. Mary Jane 2nd. All agreed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Head of School report :

- a. We are at 163 students and are trying to engage more 9th and 10th graders on the waiting list, and will have to start admitting grade 11 also. Attendance is good across the grades.
- b. Grade 9 remains at 54% of all students have either a IEP, 504 or are a English language learner (ELL)
- c. We are trying to figure out why students leave? Mostly either moving out of state or they got into a charter school closer to home. Some have said there is a lack of rigor at TGS as well. RIDE asks for our number of students and we have a 10% window either way before we risk money being taken away from us. We are getting close so really need to increase our number of student.
- d. Mr. Laplante's vision is to honor our heterogeneous groups but not forget about our higher performing students. His passion is for special education students and ELL students and he welcomes the diversity of learning and culture.
- e. Mr. Laplante recently circulated an email to families about micro aggression and speaking to our children on ways to encourage a peaceful community. It was well written and he did receive some feedback from parents.

- f. Social Worker candidate : Ms. Ann Sullivan has been hired as a part time social worker at the school. She has experience working with children and in schools but is not school certified. We are prorating her salary.
 - g. PARCC results are in. Mr. Laplante is looking at the data and planning to make some changes for improvement. Individual student results will be sent home with the students in a few weeks.
 - h. School culture: we held a basketball tournament per the students request. 11th grade won the tournament after playing the faculty. Peace week wrapped up after a month- 35 students went to URI and presented. We also held a blood drive recently and 45% of eligible donors donated blood- great turnout.
2. Finance Committee report
- a. Amend 401K plan for non-certified staff
 - i. The 401K plan was established for Ms. Duncan because she wasn't in the state plan- matched the teachers plan at the time. No waiting period- our non-teaching staff has grown so more participants in the plan and it needs to change with some basic things- employees need to be 21 years or older and have provided one year of service (1000 hours, discretionary). 6% contribution for non-teacher- we have one part time employee that we owe money too as he was never in the plan. Forfeitures are there from employees who left and this can offset this year's changes. Can be changed yearly.
 - 1. **Dick made a motion to amend the 401K plan for non-certified staff with a one year waiting period at 6% contribution by the school. This change will be effective beginning next fiscal year. Jen 2nd. All agreed unanimously.**
3. Facilities Committee report
- a. Oakhaven School update
 - i. Dick, Josh and Amy visited the school the other day with Erin Ritter, a contractor. There would be a lot of work to be completed with repair costs likely over 1 million dollars- and the level of work is huge. The contractor recommended Matt Davitt construction crew- Octavia will look to see if this group is on the approved list from RIDE.
4. Fundraising Committee report
- a. November 20th reception
 - i. We are ready for the reception on Friday.
 - ii. Fundraising meeting was held just before the board meeting in which we spoke about hiring a development person and the creation of an annual fund and establishing a culture of giving within TGS community
 - b. Development associate to be hired in the future
 - c. Grant writer to be hired now is Courtney Desisto

New Business:

- 1. EL National Conference update by Alex
 - a. Mr. Laplante, Alex Edelman and Melissa Hall traveled to san Diego to attend this conference. It was a wonderful experience. They learned from colleagues and networked with other schools and peers. We have already had a site visit with a group from Oakland Ca. Our first HOS Deanna Duncan, our school designer Emily Lichenstein and Mr. Laplante ran a master class and got great feedback on shared leadership. Alex ran a master class on

restorative justice and classroom management which included a video on school culture. They also met with people from Northpoint academy where we hope to do a domestic exchange- we are aiming to start this in the fall of 2016 for 2-5 students for the entire semester.

At 7:45PM, Laura made a motion to enter into executive Session: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (5) Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

- **Lease negotiation for potential new properties**
Paul 2nd. All agreed unanimously.

Return to open session at 8:20PM

Paul made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session. Kelly 2nd. All agreed unanimously
It was announced that there was a vote taken in executive session:

Paul made a motion that the Board approves an appraisal being done for the John Potter property in West Greenwich. Octavia 2nd. All agreed unanimously.

At 8:25pm, Octavia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Jane 2nd. All agreed unanimously.