

Seacoast Charter School

*Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, Nov. 5, 2012, 7:00 pm.*

Art Room
13 Church Street
Kingston, NH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Steve Liponis, President; Matthew Broadhead; Stacey Eaton; Bill Jordan; Kristin Larrabee; Jacki Rice; Dawn Thurlow; HOS: Roberta Mantione.

Call to order.

Receipt and Approval of Minutes and Correspondence. Sept. 10 minutes approved; Oct. 15 minutes approved, M. Broadhead abstained. No additional correspondence.

Chair Report Steve Liponis. Brendan Casey submitted his resignation. There are now 8 members on the board.

Head of School Report, Roberta Mantione: Enrollment is at 261. If we don't get up to 265 may have to cut \$20,000 out of budget. The school lost two students on Friday. Possible incoming students: one fifth grader, two third graders.

Medical issues: We have increasing medical issues presenting with four children who will need sustained medical/emotional support. We may need to train Kim to be a health room care giver or we may need to agree on some boundaries to care or see if the home districts will provide care. We need to seek legal advice from the school's attorney or the state department of education. Matthew said that he was worried about exposure to the school to liability for failure to adequately address a health problem. He said the school should seek advice from counsel and seek help from sending district.

Matthew moved and the board voted to go into non-public session.

BACK IN PUBLIC SESSION. Motion to seal the minutes. Although no names were used in the discussion the board agreed that in such a small school their identities would be recognizable. Keeping the minutes sealed would protect the privacy of the individuals in question. The board voted unanimously to seal the non-public minutes.

Steve said that the school reserves the right to call 911 in an emergency and will notify parents of that policy who are in opposition to that idea.

Roberta: Developer Paul Roy at Great Bay Community College called to ask if we were interested in a facility there. She passed on the information to the Facility Committee.

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Steve Liponis. Needs to meet to address problems raised by lower than expected enrollment as mentioned above.

2. Personnel, Steve Liponis. Personnel is only Bill, Steve and Roberta. Jacki volunteered to join. The main item on agenda is HOS review process.

3. Accountability, Stacey Eaton. The committee met to discuss the upcoming charter renewal. It is going to be more in depth than it has been in the past. Talked about how the school can be prepared with portfolios, test scores in writing and science, eighth grade graduation requirements. The committee will need new members also.

4. Governance, Matt Broadhead. Going to be looking at terms and classes for new Trustee board members. Will lead to a broader discussion of how we are filling our Trustee members. Asked board to look for members within the community. Matt said he would like to get hard numbers of how many members we need in each category. May try to stack teacher terms to begin and end with beginning and end of school year. Email Matt with suggestions. Next issue is attendance policy for Trustees. Steve: we currently have openings for both parents and non-parents. Stacey: we need someone for treasurer. Bill said he will invite new PEA gallery director to a spotlight.

5. Development & Outreach Dawn Thurlow. Discussed evening with arts event for Friday, March 22. The committee is currently approaching local businesses and people to underwrite the event. The price of admission is yet to be determined; some committee members thought the price should be \$70 per couple instead of the \$100 that was charged last year. Sorvino Vineyard, 20 minutes from the school in Sandown, is the proposed venue. It can fit over \$200 people and less expensive than last year's venue. A \$250 deposit is required to hold the venue. Steve made a motion that we authorize Dawn to commit to the venue by issuing a contract check. This was approved by unanimous voice vote.

6. PTA. Roberta reported that the group is working on finding leadership. About 20 parents attended. No one volunteered so they divided into committees: sunshine booster/school climate, playground, health and wellness, enrichment and fundraising. Each committee came up with a goal and a person to recommend for leadership.

Discussion of Mult-Age classroom. Roberta: Since we set up multi-age classrooms, curriculum has changed and it is necessary to have more divisions among math groups and reading levels. This year we were no longer able to change classes to accommodate everyone in math. Teachers are having to teach two different programs at two different levels and it's become impossible. Things used to be more fluid and open ended, but the new math program is more rigid. Stacey asked a question about project based math curriculum. Jacki said project based learning can be spotty for teaching particular skills. Roberta described the difference between single-grade grouping and looping with two grades—a teacher stays with a class for two years. Roberta said she can't advocate multi-age grouping because of curricular changes. Jacki asked how it will work when you have three classes within each two-grade group. Roberta said the likely solution is to have two classes of looping and one class of multi-age grouping. Steve: this would take effect at the start of a new school year, not in the middle of the year. Jacki described a proposed solution involving grouping by ability in different subjects. Roberta: It's a decision based on the idea of keeping students in their zone of proximal development, an idea developed by Vygotsky, education philosopher: meeting kids where they are. Now, there are too many zones. Stacy spoke about how it worked at her former school along with project based learning. It was a lot of work for the teachers. They have to have the training. Is it motivated by teacher need or what the students need. Jacki discussed the problems with finding teachers who can make it here. Kristin: you will lose some teachers if things don't change because of combination of low pay and the high stress of the current issues. Roberta: they are up at night because they can't meet all the children's needs. There's no support system here like there is anywhere else. Common Core isn't working and you can't do it all and still have a life. We will bring this to staff on Wednesday and have that conversation and bring this conversation

back to the Trustees in December. Roberta spoke to the challenge of teacher retention. They will give up after so much frustration with the curriculum. She added that kids need more face to face teacher instruction than they are getting.

Public Comment. None

Summary and Action Items. Matthew: If we are going to be cutting \$20,000, does the Finance Committee need to look at class sizes and staffing? Steve said that was a FinCom exercise.

Items for Next Agenda / Date for next meeting. Next meeting: Monday Dec. 10.

Adjournment. 8:25

Respectfully submitted
Bill Jordan, Secretary