

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

17350 Hazel Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456

Touching Hearts....Reaching Minds

Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 25, 6:30PM

MINUTES - Approved

- I. **Call to Order** – President Andy Alt called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.
- II. **Roll Call – Declaration of a Quorum** – Present: Andy Alt (President), John Hayes (Vice-President), Secretary (Melisa Sass), Brooke Karl (Treasurer), Sara Heacox (Trustee)
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Reading of West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics Mission Statement**
Empowering students to reach their ultimate personal success through the unique integration of arts and academics.
- V. **Mission Moment** – J. Bennink talked about the continued challenges the school faces with increase in COVID exposures for both staff and students.
- VI. **Swearing In of John Hayes as Reappointed Board Member** – J. Hayes has already been sworn in.
- VII. **Public Comments for Agenda Items Only** – There were no comments.
- VIII. **Approval of the Agenda** – A. Alt added under “action items” a presentation from Rex Thelen from the OAITC to discuss the ECF grant. A motion was made by J. Hayes, supported by M. Sass to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.
- IX. **Correspondence** – A. Alt received an email from a parent volunteer praising the staff.
- X. **Action Items**
 - a. Review and Approve Board Meeting Minutes: November 30, 2021 – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by S. Heacox to approve the minutes as written. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

Presentation from Rex Thelen, OAITC – R. Thelen presented to the board the ECF grant, which is intended to put and keep devices in the hands of students and staff for at home. The OAITC consulted with Bob Rice for the program. He applied for 14 iPads and 40 chromebooks. A motion was made by J. Hayes, supported by M. Sass to approve the acquisition of these devices. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

- XI. **Director’s Report**
 - a. Highlights of Written Report – J. Bennink reported that GVSU renewed our contract for 5 years, after the site review, mid-year data is being reviewed with an emphasis in math, a magnet school from Battle Creek will be visiting to see how the arts integration works, the spring musical is Matilda, and we will go back to the Festival of Arts week.
 - b. Charter Renewal Debrief – The site review committee met with staff, students, and parents. The committee reported the school is an effective and viable organization and is fiscally sound. A recommendation from both the review committee and GVSU is for the administrator to relieve some of her responsibilities to her leadership team.

- c. Review of Scatterplot Map of Enrollment – J. Bennink presented the Board with a scatterplot of the geographic areas our students reside.
- d. Board Policy Updates – J. Bennink met with National Charter Schools Institute to go over new changes to the fall policies. A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by B. Karl to approve the policy updates. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.
- e. School Improvement Plan update – J. Bennink reported that every year the Board is presented with an update to the plan. The current plan is to address social and emotional needs to students and staff, utilizing the mindfulness room. She will provide that data to the Board.
- f. Enrollment/ Re-enrollment/ Kindergarten round up Timeline – J. Bennink reported February is Kindergarten round up, and plans are already under way to promote this and open enrollment, which is in March.

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Finance, Facilities, Audit Committee – B. Karl reviewed the meeting details with the Board. J. Bennink sent out a survey to parents, students and staff regarding how to spend the ESSER III funds, as required by the legislation. J. Bennink will meet with the leadership team to finalize details.
- b. *Arts & Academics Committee* – The committee has scheduled a meeting, J. Bennink will be handing out NWEA data, and 90 students still have not tested.
- c. *Governance Committee* – They will meet.
- d. *Marketing and Enrollment Committee* – The committee has been meeting. Upcoming events are the cardboard sled race, and C. Tease talked to a GH Tribune reporter about some events.

XIII. GVSU Report – Matt Cawood reported to the Board the results of their annual performance review. The Academic grant is completed, with criteria coming from 50% academic and 50% board training.

XIV. Potential Topics for March 22, 2022 Board Meeting – Reappointment of Sara Heacox, looker closer at NWEA data, and continue with the organization structure conversation.

XV. Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items – There were no comments.

XVI. Closed Session for Personnel - A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by J. Hayes to move into closed session at 9:02 PM. A roll call vote was taken – J. Hayes – aye, B. Karl – aye, A. Alt – aye, M. Sass – aye, S. Heacox – aye. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by B. Karl to move out of closed session at 9:43 PM. A roll call vote was taken – M. Sass – aye, J. Hayes – aye, B. Karl – aye, A. Alt – aye, S. Heacox – aye. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

XVII. Adjournment – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by J. Hayes to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM. All in favor 4-0, motion passed.

Melissa Sass

4/11/22