

# West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

17350 Hazel Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456

*Touching Hearts....Reaching Minds*

**Board Meeting November 15, 2022, 6:30PM**

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## MINUTES - Approved

- I. **Call to Order** – President Andy Alt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- II. **Roll Call – Declaration of a Quorum** – Present – Andy Alt (President), John Hayes (Vice President), Melisa Sass (Secretary), Brooke Karl (Treasurer), Sara Heacox (Trustee). Also present: Joanna Bennink (Director), Liz Johnson (Business Manager), Matt Cawood (GVSU Rep), Doug McNeil (Board Attorney).
- 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. **Public Comments for Agenda Items Only** – There were comments from Kendra Streng and Dave Karpin regarding moving the public comments for the meeting before the closed session. The agenda stayed as written.
- VI. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by J. Hayes, supported by M. Sass to approve the agenda as written. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
- VII. **Correspondence** – A. Alt reported they received some correspondence from parents similar in content regarding class sizes and lunch program. Administration will follow up with the parents.
- VIII. **Action Items**
  - a. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2022 – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by B. Karl to approve the minutes as written. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
  - b. Approval of SEAB chairperson, Danielle Oster – Dance and Health Teacher – We are required to have a teacher on the sex education advisory committee, and Danielle Oster has been selected. A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by S. Heacox to approve Danielle Oster as the SEAB chairperson. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
  - c. Approval of Board Policy Updates – J. Bennink emailed the Board with the current updates. Most are legal updates to include electronic transfer of funds, vendor relations and best practice. A motion was made by S. Heacox, supported by J. Hayes to approve the Board Policies. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
- IX. **Director's Report**
  - a. Highlights of Written Report – J. Bennink reported they had conferences, fall play, arts / academics spirit week, jingle bell parade, Christmas shows are coming up. The GH Community Foundation will also be providing a grant for an artist to work with kids on a mural.
  - b. Presentation of NWEA Map Fall Data – J. Bennink continues to work with Seth Kaufman, the data is similar from this fall to last year, 6<sup>th</sup> grade is an overall concern with a higher



Melisa Sass 1/25/22

percentage of special ed students, and a number of new second grade students. J. Bennink will continue to watch the data. The data will be presented at the January 2023 Board Meeting.

- c. Presentation of Safe Return to School document – This has included COVID documents and protocols, updated. A survey was also sent out for community input regarding spending of the ESSER III funds.
- d. Enrollment Update – J. Bennink reported as of day, we have 454 students. Enrollment by grade – TK – 18 with a teacher and para pro, K – 20, 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 21, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 22, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 23, 4<sup>th</sup> grade – 24, 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 25, 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades – 25 per class for each of those grades. A. Alt asked what the current numbers are for each grade.

**X. Committee Reports**

- a. Finance, Facilities, Audit Committee – B. Karl and L. Johnson reported the 2022 financial audit was clean, with no findings. The auditor also wrapped up the single audit with no findings.
- b. Arts & Academics Committee – They did not meet.
- c. Governance Committee – A. Alt reported they have not met. Tim Tiefenbach has been added to the committee. He is allowed to engage in conversation, but cannot vote. He should get approved the by GVSU Board of Trustees at their February 2023 Board Meeting.
- d. Marketing and Enrollment Committee – M. Sass reported they have scheduled a meeting with the our current electronic sign company and also have quotes from other companies. Merchandise will continue to be sold to raise funds for the school.

**XI. GVSU Report** – M. Cawood reported there is a virtual training tomorrow where the annual school performance results will be discussed, they will conduct another culture / climate survey with staff and if a certain number of staff participate, the Academy will get their own report. Finally, starting October 12, 2022, the Michigan Legislature requires that schools post MCL 380.10, from the Revised School Code Act of 1976, the Rights of parents and legal guardians: duties of public schools.

**XII. Closed Session** for consideration of a written memorandum from WMAAA's legal counsel pursuant Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act  
A motion was made by J. Hayes, supported by M. Sass to move into closed session at 7:30 PM. Roll call vote – A. Alt – aye, B. Karl – aye, M. Sass – aye, S. Heacox – aye, J. Hayes – aye. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.  
A motion was made by J. Hayes, supported by M. Sass to move out of closed session at 8:08 PM. A roll call vote – A. Alt – aye, B. Karl – aye, M. Sass – aye, S. Heacox – aye, J. Hayes – aye. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.

**XIII. Potential Topics for January 24, 2023 Board Meeting**

- a. Arts Integration Overview
- b. SEAB Update

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

**XV. Adjournment** – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by B. Karl to adjourn at 8:11 PM. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.