

Syracuse Arts Academy
Work Session Minutes
April 10, 2008

Place: Syracuse Arts Academy, 2893 W. 1700 S., Syracuse



The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

Present: Dave Hall, Charlene Nelson, Jan Whimpey, Andrea Larkin 5:06PM and Michelle Gibby 5:06 PM, Chris Dallin 5:50 PM

Guests: Ken Jeppesen (Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith), Catina Martinez-Hadley (Academica West), Gavin Hutchinson 5:08PM (Academica West) and Jed Stevenson 5:28 PM (Academica West)

MINUTES

5:00 PM – Call to Order – Dave Hall

BUSINESS ITEMS (To be Voted Upon During Board Meeting):

- Audit Report – Ken (auditor from Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith) presented the audit report in summary to the Board. Ken and Dave asked if there were any questions. There were none. (Gavin and Ken excused themselves from the rest of the meeting.)

REPORTS:

- Principal Report – Jan
 - ✚ Jan presented the new calendar for the 2008-09 school year.
 - ✚ Missoula Children's Theater – Jan proposed having them come on an annual basis because it brings another aspect of fine arts to the school. Andrea asked about the cost. Jan said that it costs approximately \$2,100 and that the time to book them is now. Charlene recommended approval.
 - ✚ Student and Teacher Attrition – Jan talked about the 75 6th graders who will be graduating from the school and discussed the small attrition numbers for students who leave for other reasons. Jan stated that two teachers will not be returning for personal reasons. Both are leaving amicably. Andrea asked about the status of other staff. Jan mentioned one TA who might not be interested in returning. She is in negotiation with that individual.
 - ✚ Jan asked if non-teaching staff would be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement. The current policy only specifies teachers. Catina will send out the Tuition Reimbursement policy for consideration. Dave asked how they can guarantee repayment if the stated term for reimbursement is not fulfilled. He talked about the possibility of using a Promissory Note to guarantee payment.
- Parent Organization – Michelle

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- ✚ Parent Advisory Council Proposal – Michelle explained the purpose of the Parent Advisory Council proposal. The Board liked the proposal and suggested that it be readdressed during the annual meeting.
- ✚ Board of Directors Wall – Michelle suggested a location for the Board of Directors pictures that will be hung in the lobby. Andrea suggested a display case for art in addition to the cases. Michelle will proceed with having the frames purchased for the wall.
- ✚ Primary Children’s Medical Center (PCMC) Project – SAA has a student who is currently at PCMC. The POEC suggested printing vinyl decals of the school mascot to sell to parents. All proceeds would go to help the family. Teachers may also do some in class activities to support the family.
- Board Report
 - ✚ Budget Update – David Hall – Nothing significant to report. All is well with the budget. David recommended that the Board invest \$750,00 of the budget surplus into the Public Investment Fund. Dave has also reviewed the check registry. Dave suggested that an investment policy be adopted. Jed stated that an Investment Policy has been drafted and will be sent to the Board.
- Junior High Update (Expansion) – Academica
 - ✚ Jed commended Jan for her part in putting together the school expansion application. Jed described the approval formula for the Charter School Board, which is based on a predetermined number of students. Jed suggested that the student numbers on the expansion application be amended as the state has requested. Andrea asked what the next steps are. Jed went into details on the final steps that will be required leading up to the State Charter Board holding a vote on the expansion.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (For Discussion Only):

- Dive Deep Committees – A Committee was created to look into parking and pickup issues. Chris suggested that a parent chair each of the Dive Deep committees. Chris wants the Dive Deep Committees to meet on the months when the Board does not meet. Chris suggested giving the committee some constraints and allowing them to brainstorm solutions within those constraints.

ADJOURN: 6:30 PM

CLOSED SESSION – To discuss salaries and staffing – Made a motion to go into closed session. Second. Motion passed unanimously.

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