



Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021 – 6:00pm

The mission of Grand Peak Academy is to develop students of great character, who are culturally aware, accepting of diversity, appreciators of history, arts, mathematics, and sciences, and are prepared to meet the challenges of the world today. We value parental partnership through direct involvement in classroom and school activities and community stewardship through our support of local charities and hosting of community events.

The Board shall use the Mission and the Plan for Success (Academic Success, Economic Sustainability and Character Growth) as the filter for all decision making.

1. **Call to Order** (6:00pm) –
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** –
3. **Mission Statement** – (6:00pm) – Chris Dempsey read the mission statement
4. **Roll Call** (6:01pm) – Chris Dempsey (President), Brandon Henry (Vice President), Anthony Hall, Erika Craig, Nicole Parker (Acting Middle School Principal), Melissa Maldonado (Acting Elementary Principal), Valerie O’Brien (Business Manager) and Marcia Billingsley (Registrar) – absent: Jen Reishus (Treasurer)
5. **Approval of February 22, 2021 Board Agenda** (6:01pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Erika seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.
6. **Approval of January 25, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes** (6:02pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.
7. **Public Comments** (6:03pm) - None
8. **PTO Update** (6:03pm) – Alicia reported that the fun run was a huge success. The principals were duct taped to the wall on Friday using 12 rolls of duct tape! Total amount raised was \$25,571. We were able to purchase the mascot with the money raised and will begin working on an outdoor classroom. Mrs. Hall’s class was first place \$109 per lap. We will be buying the preschool a shed for their toys and things outside, as well as purchasing some gym equipment. Friday will be a virtual art night with Mrs. Cooley as well as a virtual talent show in March. The next meeting is Wednesday at 5:30pm
9. **Marketing Update** (6:05pm) – We have a bunch of print ads running, we have a big push with Facebook ads marketing middle school and elementary prospective parents. So far our elementary ad has reached about 4200 people and another 3200 for middle school. We also started running google ads this month with 139 views, 30 clicks and a couple of phone calls to the school. There is a meeting with I Heart Radio this week to get some ads started in March. We are looking at spending between \$3-4K on those ads. We also have our first request for a family member to make keychains to sell in our spirit wear store.
10. **Board Dashboard | Principals Report** (6:08pm) – Nicole began with CoGat testing, all testing has been completed for both 3rd and 6th grade. Once scores are received, we work with students and parents on an advanced learning plan to identify gifted and talented students. Tonight we kicked off the 3rd grade virtual information night; our teachers did a wonderful job presenting the information. We have more events planned later this week and next. The information sessions will be recorded in case we need to use them for marketing purposes. A few weeks ago we had a marketing event, teachers felt it was located a little too far from our school but it was good to get our name out there. This year we will follow an opt in models for CMAS, parents must respond by

March 1st. As of today, we have 59 students in grades 3-8 for CMAS. This will take a lot of extra planning because of extra covid related logistics. We had a couple of paras join our para team recently. Melissa presented that ACCESS testing is 100% complete. We have a new CLDE team at the school. We sent out a staff intent to return survey and receive a 100% response. Five are not returning, 3 were due to a move. Melissa reminded the board that our teachers are working really hard and this year has been a challenge for teachers, students and parents. Our dibels data is showing many challenges with our reading, particularly in kindergarten. Therefore, we are working on some new implementations that includes new curriculum and a new data tracker. We will be using SIPS, which is a state approved program for our struggling students. Marcia commented that we are still receiving intent to return forms. D49 has opened enrollment for next year so she will start offering spots now. We will also start to hear if any of our students start to enroll at district schools so that we can get a more accurate count for next year. At this time we can offer all spots on the waiting list. Enrollments usually start within a week or two of the offers going out. In the past we have typically had a 75% retention rate. Brandon commented that we typically receive the graph data reports of dibels scores, he would like to see that going forward. Anthony asked which grade level has the lowest retention rate, Marcia responded that 1st – 5th is around 80%, 5th to 6th typically has a drop as well because a number of kids leave to go to area middle schools.

11. **Treasurer/Business Manager Trend Report** (6:25pm) – In January we receive \$52K from the construction project, this money should be spent on building related projects, therefore we will utilize the funds to upgrade the kindergarten playground. When it was originally designed it utilized equipment for ages 2-5, however our kindergarteners start at age 5 and are really too big for the equipment. We will have some items removed and replaced as well as add shade to the structure. We are having the larger playground re-bid to include shade as well.

12. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Assessment Date Changes for 20-21 and 21-22 SY** (6:27pm) – Melissa would like to propose we change the current school year calendar on April 30th which is a PD day to an assessment day, and then change May 15th to a PD day instead of an assessment date. As well as change the assessment days to May 5th and 6th instead of the 12th and 13rd for next years calendar. These changes are needed due to the assessment calendar.
- b. **Principal Search Committee Update** (6:29pm) – Chris reported that he, Brandon, Marcia and Valerie have spent a significant amount of time over the past few weeks looking at the current leadership as well as needs of the school going forward. Next week we should be ready to post the job with a goal of conducting interviews around Spring Break. Once that job description is posted, it will also be sent out to all staff as well.
- c. **Curriculum Committee** (6:32pm) – As part of the principal search committee meeting, a staff survey was sent out that highlight a bunch of gaps with curriculum among staff and grade levels. We have decided to form a committee to make sure everything is synced up and applies to where we want to be going forward. We want to identify what assets we are using, what we are not and what we could add. We are looking at doing this over the course of the next 6-8 months. We want to dig in to what we have and make some smart decisions going forward. We have identified that our core knowledge sequence has been lost in a lot of areas. We want to get back to understanding and teaching rigor and make sure art is teaching as part of the sequence etc. We need everybody's input to make this what we want it to be.
- d. **X8 Global Consulting Firm** (6:35pm) – The board has hired a consultant that will help us with quite a few things. We want to make sure we are giving our leaders everything they need to succeed so that we can continue to mentor them in all areas. Eric Dinell

heads up this consulting firm, he worked with Banning Lewis Academy and has been heavily involved in D49 as well as numerous charter schools. He will work with us for two years and will work with our leadership and staff to highlight areas of growth and help us to move forward and be the best school we can be.

- e. **InnovationsED Consulting Firm** (6:38pm) – This is another consulting firm we have been working with this school year, they are providing mentor and leadership training. Rachel Nance their trainer will be on site this week to offer more guidance and ideas. It is very important to the board that the leaders can have the tools they need to succeed, including training and mentoring. Brandon commented that this firm will also help us to re-evaluate our mission and vision statement and help us to enhance our culture. These two consultants are key components to the future success of GPA. Chris commented that moving away from Imagine was tough for many reasons but now we can reshape our identity and have everybody on the team buying in and providing input.
13. **Action Items**
- a. **Assessment Date Changes for 20-21 and 21-22 SY** (6:42pm) – Brandon motioned to change the assessment dates as presented, Anthony seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passes 4-0.
 - b. **Curriculum Committee** (6:44pm) – Erika motioned to approve a curriculum committee, Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0
14. **Other Business** (6:45pm) – Jamie Levake requested having an open facebook page for the garden club. Chris had no issue with it but wanted to mention it to the other board members.
15. **Adjournment** (6:46pm) – None