



Board Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020 - 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** (6:05pm) –
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** (6:06pm) –
3. **Mission Statement** (6:06pm) –
4. **Roll Call** (6:06pm) - Michael Phillipich (Vice President), Jen Reishus (Treasurer) Brandon Henry (Communications), Steven Teague (Secretary), Scott Hunter (Principal), Serena Brizic (Academic Coach), Valerie O'Brien (Business Manager). Not in attendance: Chris Dempsey (President)
5. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Board Agenda** (6:09pm) – Brandon Henry motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Steven Teague seconded the motion. No discussion was needed. Motion passes 4-0
6. **Approval of January 27, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes** (6:09pm) – Brandon Henry motioned to approve the meetings as presented, Steven Teague seconded the motion. No discussion was needed. Motion passes 4-0
7. **Comments from the Public** (6:10pm) – None
8. **Board Dashboard/Principals Report** (6:10pm) – Serena introduced Melissa Maldonado as the Dean of Students. She started last Tuesday and we are so excited to have her here. Nicole Parker will also be Dean of Students beginning in July. We have 4 new para professionals starting this week. We completed the UIP. The first draft is due to the district March 12th. Serena commented that we have addressed some of the concerns of the board from the last meeting. Brandon suggested we continue to do checks and balanced to keep everybody on the same playing board. Serena noted that parents have been receptive to the dress code enforcement. Mike would like a policy update concerning sweatshirts that are allowed. Brandon noted that we can make an adjustment that is effective and enforced prior to the written change to the policy if we communicate the change to parents. Serena noted that with the new hires we have more coverage and are able to serve our teachers and community better. Marcia Billingsley noted that the current results for intent to return, we are looking at 646 that are returning, 20 have said they are not returning, 43 have not responded and 16 marked maybe. The waitlist at this point is 182 students, this time last year was 460. Typically, about a quarter to a 1/3 of those will enroll with us by the time school starts. The district has enrollment open, though not 100% working. Marcia will start offering spots the first week of March.
9. **Treasurer/Business Managers Report on Trend** (6:17pm) – Valerie updated that we received reimbursement from the district for ELPA funds and MLO purchased in January. Otherwise we are on track to have a good year and rebuild our savings/reserves that had been used for some of the move.
10. **Marketing Update** (6:19pm) – Brandon gave the marketing update. Radio ads targeting our demographics are starting. You will hear them on 99.9, 96.9 (iheart stations) as well as 98.9, 92.9,

98.1, KVOR AM (Cummulus Media stations) Radio ads will run through April. There will be 6 different ads running, targeted for parent info nights etc. We targeted the morning/afternoon drive. Skipped the lunch hour but also targeted the weekends. We have a videographer coming this month to work on a 30 second ad for various media. We will begin to push those advertisements beginning in March. We just purchased a huge tent/booth for advertising/fairs. Mike reminded everybody that word of mouth is very important as well.

11. Discussion Items

- a. **Updated Electronics Policy – 2nd reading** (6:24pm) – Mike noted that kids are coming to school with smart watches which creates a challenge for teachers. We updated the policy to address this issue. If there is something that urgent they should be calling the office or engaging with the teacher/administration. Henry read the updated policy out loud.
- b. **2020 – 2021 SY Calendar** (6:28pm) – Serena moved spring break to the second week of D49's two-week spring break based on previous years. Made some changes to the PD days. Half day for kindergarten the first week of school (four days). Everything else stayed the same from the calendar that was presented at the previous meeting. There was some discussion about snow days and contact hours.
- c. **2020 – 2021 Math Curriculum** (6:49pm) – The math leadership team has worked hard to research and propose a math curriculum change. They would like to move forward with Eureka Math. Serena noted we have had some successful parent nights and will continue to hold those to inform parents of the changes. In order to get the training and materials we need, we need to get this approved now. It falls right in line with all of our goals to increase our scores and our school performance framework plan. We feel very confident that this is a good step moving forward. Steven wondered who did the research to say Saxon is outdated. He called a rep with Saxon Math and was told there was a 2018 version and there is teacher training available. He noted that Falcon, Stetson and Odyssey Elementary schools all use Eureka, but their test scores are only 3% higher than our test scores. Angie commented that most of her team is training on Eureka. Her kids have grasped the concepts using Eureka this year faster than she has ever experienced. Her class is doing long division word problems and she has never seen her class be able to figure them out as easily in the past. In the past she would teach it the Saxon Math way and then another way or two so that kids could fully grasp the concepts but for the test it had to always be done the Saxon way, which is hard for some kids when they are learning it other ways too. Chelley Bresnahan asked if we had looked at Singapore Math since other area schools are using it. Brandon commented that Banning had used Singapore but have recently moved away from it as they have found it to not meet their needs as a school.
- d. **Unified Improvement Plan** (7:13pm) – Serena highlighted some training that the staff has completed recently. We are focusing on creating a language rich environment for students to speak and communicate at a high level. That is an initiative that we are continuing. We are also focused on writing expression in math. We have purchased a new program called Write Now Right Now Math to help show improvement this year with Saxon and Math Expressions. We are also focused on writing in CKLA with the Write Now Right Now writing program. We are focused on writing in all subjects, how to plan, write to a prompt and analyze to a text. We are working on how to write at an effective level and explain their thinking. The creators of the writing program have come three times to help teachers learn and utilize the program as well as instructional coaching. We have teacher experts to help us continue the training into next year. We have started professional learning communities to meet weekly to focus on growth and student

outcomes. Mike asked who participates in the learning communities, Serena stated she did previously but she has empowered team leads to take that on but we ensure there is an administrator there every week as well. Middle school is working on ThinkCerca with D49 support from coaches. If we focus on the instructional strategies that work and following the program with fidelity, we will see growth in writing in math and ELA. The UIP was also provided to the SAC to review, however their meeting had to be rescheduled to March 9th which should be plenty of time to review and make changes prior to the March 12th deadline.

12. Action Items

- a. **Updated Electronics Policy** (7:23pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the updated electronics policy as presented, Steven seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0
- b. **2020 – 2021 SY Calendar** (7:24pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the 2020-2021 school year calendar as presented, Jen seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0
- c. **2020 – 2021 Math Curriculum** (7:24pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the change to the math curriculum as presented, Jen seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1.
- d. **Unified Improvement Plan** (7:25pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the UIP, Jen seconded the motion. Mike moved to approve the UIP pending no other changes. If the SAC votes to make changes the board will review changes. Conditional Motion passes 4-0

13. Board Member Communication (7:28pm) – None

14. Other Business (7:27pm) – Scott commented that there is a district board training on April 18 and 25th. The district would like us to host and would need at least one of us to attend.

- a. PTO would like to hold an Easter egg hunt on the 11th
- b. Mike Phillipich is moving out of state soon and would like to find a replacement for his position in the very near future.

15. Adjournment (7:31pm)