



## Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 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** (6:01pm) –
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** –
3. **Mission Statement** –
4. **Roll Call** (6:03pm) – Chris Dempsey (President), Brandon Henry (Vice President), Jen Reishus (Treasurer), Scott Hunter (Principal), Nicole Parker (Assistant Principal), Melissa Maldonado (Assistant Principal), Valerie O’Brien (Business Manager) and Marcia Billingsley (Registrar)
5. **Approval of September 21, 2020 Board Agenda** (6:04pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Jen seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-0
6. **Approval of August 24, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**(6:04pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Jen seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-0
7. **Approval of September 1, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes** (6:06pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jen seconded. Motion passes 3-0
8. **Comments from the Public** (6:05pm) – None
9. **PTO Update** (6:05pm) – Alecia Martz, PTO President reported that there are currently 87 members and they are in the middle of a membership drive competition for the most members in a class. Upcoming events: Restaurant night on Thursday Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at Papa Johns. We picked that location to help with social distancing because of the ease of delivery or pick up. We will also have movie night on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the parking lot. At the end of October there will be a reverse trick or treat. We are in the middle of a fundraiser, with all items shipped directly to homes to avoid having parents come in to the school. This year with PTO events social distancing is on the forefront. There is currently a board opening for the vice president with an election happening. Voting ends Thursday. The general meeting will be Sept 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 via google meet. Regarding teacher appreciation, this Friday PTO will provide lunch for the teacher work day and then a once a month there will be an appreciation day as we have done in the past.
10. **Marketing Update** Brandon provided the marketing update. Print ads are running in the New Falcon Herald and we will see them in the Colorado Springs Relocation Guide soon. We need to have another marketing meeting soon. We have a couple initiatives that have been tabled due to COVID. The committee will probably meet at the beginning of October. We have contracted a videographer but are waiting to get video done once the COVID situation is behind us so that the video they capture can be used long term and would not need to be reshot once masks are no longer required. We will have post cards ordered for the Thanksgiving mail out that we do from teachers.
11. **Board Dashboard (Principals’ Report)** (6:10pm) – Scott reported that last week was the first week to have all grade levels on campus in person. The team had managed several quarantine issues last

week so we have had a chance to try to overcome some of the challenges. We realized on Friday that we needed to adjust our specials schedule to reduce cohort interaction with specials. We purchased Star testing and finished with K-5. We are in the process of middle school STAR testing to start in the next week or two. On the reading report we have more students in the red and yellow ranges than we typically see at the beginning of the year. We have a solid system to approach that and we are bringing on 3 paras to help us approach the little kids gaining fluency. For the younger grades, fluency is a concern with online learning due to COVID. We should see significant growth in the next two testing windows. We have a system now that is being duplicated in the district. Several schools are doing a little bit of what we are doing now. Hiring 4 paras, one replaces a para that left and 3 additional. We are looking for a health assistant sub for the time period that our current health assistant is on medical leave after fall break. We are working on our grade expectations for the students in Streaming School to make sure there is good communication among all parties. We found and purchased about 30 chrome books, it has been a challenge due to the global shortage. We are purchasing extra to help with snow days so that families have what they need. We are meeting with T-Mobile this week to discuss hotspots for families through their grant. Chris asked how far along are we on the new character program. Melissa reported that this month we combined both August and September virtues. Each teacher will pick 1-2 students per month for the core virtue. We are encouraging specials teachers to also join in. The nominations could come from teacher and/or peer choices. We need to talk more about how the assembly will look, possibly online and into the classroom on tvs. We will also have stickers to hand out as students are "caught" during the day displaying the character trait of the month. Chris commented that the weekly communication to parents has increased and has been well received. Chris noted that Erika sent an email to Andy Franko and himself acknowledging Scott and Marcia for all the work they have been doing with COVID response team. Marcia commented that the whole team has come together and been amazing to work with through this crazy time. She appreciates everybody on the team.

12. **Treasurer/Business Managers Trend Report** (6:32pm) – Valerie reported that financially there is not much to update at this time. We are still waiting for more concrete numbers from count day as well as waiting to hear if there will be a midyear recission. However, as of now we are in a good place. The main focus lately has been the audit. We are working with a new auditor this year so there has been some work to get the new team up to speed on our background as well as the added issues of the separation from Imagine and building the new building. We should have the final audit report this week. Going forward the audit should be much smoother next year.

13. **Discussion Items:**

- a. **Update on Return to Learn** (6:37pm) – Marcia commented that there are currently about 30% that opted for online learning. Nicole noted that it was a huge adjustment for the teachers when the middle school students return, just as it was for the lower grades. However, the teachers handled it very well, they were flexible and willing to do what it took to adjust. They will have another change this week with specials but they are all understanding and on board. It will be nice to have some consistency after this week.
- b. **Open Board Seats** (6:41pm) – Chris commented that Mike resigned in May and then Stephen resigned last week. Mike's position was board appointed and Stephen's was parent voted. Brandon commented that we will hold an election for the open parent voted position. We are hoping to hold the election before fall break. That position will take on the secretary role. Next week we will get the word out to have parents to submit their info and shoot for voting on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We plan to officially swear that person in at the next meeting at the end of October. Chris commented that the

board is planning to appoint Erika Craig into the board appointed position. Brandon noted that Erika has a lot of connections with the PTO and has been very involved in many areas within the school and will be a great fit for the board. Jen commented that she is in agreement that Erika will be a great addition to the board.

- c. **GPA Carpool Concerns and Plans (6:46pm)** – Chris noted that the email about carpool changes went out and today it looked like the carpool concerns seem to be handled. Scott recapped that a parent sent a detailed email complaining about how carpool was running and how it was unsafe. He strategized with a handful of parents to work through some of the concerns. He also called the parent that brought up the concern and she felt like the issues had been taken care of. Chris said he liked that a parent felt comfortable voicing their concerns and then was able to see that it was handled appropriately and communicated well.
- d. **Eagle Scout Project Request (6:50pm)** – There is an eagle scout that was a former student at the school and his family is very involved with the school. He has an interest in completing his project for GPA. He will do all the work but this will need to be GPA funded. If we have him work on the garden, it would be \$1K in planting and trees and Harding Nursery will match the cost up to \$500. Chris commented that it would also be nice to have the hill on the east side of the building landscaped. Nicole commented that we use the back of the school quite a bit, and it would be nice to have an area focused on back there as well. Brandon commented that the scout master is also master for another troop and there are always troops looking for projects to work on. He has a full year to get this done, he will submit costs and proposals so that we can be aware and more forward.
- e. **Spirit Wear Update (7:01pm)** – Marcia commented that we are trying to get art work from the old spirit wear companies. We are looking at launching on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be handled on a website where parents order, pay and then items are shipped directly to them.
- f. **School Needs Assessment (7:07pm)** – In the past Mike Philipich had a connection with a company called Innovations Ed, that helps schools excel in a variety of ways. The board would like for the Principal and Assistant Principals to complete leadership training through this company to help them grow in their roles. He commented that the board supports bettering our staff whenever possible and this is meant to help them continue to grow in their new roles. One of the ladies in the company is a fellow at the University of Virginia Business School and has assisted with leadership at all type of schools from preschools to charters to universities. There will be more information to follow soon.
- g. **Contact Hours (7:11pm)** – Due to the delay of school starting this year, we need to confirm with the district whether there will be an issue with our contact hours. Scott will find out this week.
- h. **Landscape Plans (7:13pm)** – Chris has been working with Timberline to look into improving the landscape on the hill to the east of the building.
- i. **Personnel Additions to Bank Account (7:14pm)** – Jen will contact the bank to set up a time to add Marcia, Nicole and Melissa to the bank account and to remove Serena.

#### 14. Action Items:

- a. **Board Appointed Seat (7:18pm)** – Brandon motioned to appoint Erika Craig to the open board appointed position Jen seconded the motion. The motion passes 3-0. Erika will be our 4<sup>th</sup> board member and we will move forward with an election for our 5<sup>th</sup> member. Both positions will be sworn in at the meeting in October.

**15. Vote to Adjourn to Executive Session (7:20pm)**

C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (4)(f)(I) Personnel matters except if the employee who is the subject of the session has requested an open meeting, or if the personnel matter involves more than one employee, all of the employees have requested an open meeting. With respect to hearings held pursuant to the "Teacher Employment, Compensation, and Dismissal Act of 1990", article 63 of title 22, C.R.S., the provisions of section 22-63-302 (7) (a), C.R.S., shall govern in lieu of the provisions of this subsection (4).

**16. Board Member Communication (7:57pm) – None**

**17. Other Business (7:58pm) – None**

**18. Adjournment (7:58pm) –**