



Board Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019 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** (6:00pm) -
3. **Roll Call** (6:00pm) - Chris Dempsey (President), 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: Dan Speer (Assistant Principal)
4. **Approval of September 23, 2019 Board Agenda** (6:01pm) – Brandon Henry motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Jen seconded the motion. Chris requested to add an executive session and change the bylaws item from an approval item to a first read and discussion item. Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Jen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0
5. **Approval of August 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes** (6:02pm) - Brandon motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Jen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0
6. **Comments from the Public** (6:02pm) - None
7. **PTO Update** (6:03pm) - Chelley Bresnahan represented the PTO. She mentioned that the PTO can cancel their monthly storage space if they are able to fit the polo shirts in to the new building storage. Chris said the school will invest in another conex if we do not have enough storage space in the building. Chelley mentioned that October 2nd is Walk to School day, the students and PTO will meet at Ken Jordan park and walk to school together. Also, the PTO will be holding the book fair the week of October 7th. They will stay open later on Monday afternoon, and are planning to dismantle on Thursday afternoon. Finally the Fall Harvest festival will be held on November 1st at the new school from 5-8pm.
8. **Board Dashboard/Principals Report** (6:10pm) – Scott Hunter reported that we currently have 752 students at the school, which does not include preschool. The current budget was planned is for 700 and will be revised after count day. The Count day window begins on Wednesday and ends October 9th. Now we have a larger than anticipated student body we are trying to ramp up and address the needs that come along with it. We have roughly 250 new students which takes some routine and procedure focus. We have ramped up on para professionals, going from 7 at the start of the school year to currently 14. There is a new character recognition process, instead of monthly assemblies we have decided to do a more immediate recognition with GPA stickers. Student names will go into a google doc and there will be a drawing at the end of the month for prizes. We will still have the quarterly honor roll assemblies. Chris mentioned that there should be a communication to parents about this change as a number of parents have been curious about the assemblies not happening yet. Scott also noted that there is a new organizational structure in the office, Valerie has taken on a supervision role for some of the office staff. She will help evaluate office staff, we have mostly only evaluated teachers but that will change going forward. Also, We have a sports program up and

running. We have a fun GPA athletic shirt for the kids participating in the sports camps and are currently running a soccer camp. Cheer, volleyball and basketball will start after we move to the new building. We are currently hiring for coaches and will hire an athletics director/coordinator soon. This person will also oversee issues happening in the afternoon/evening at the school. Also noted that we met with city and building architects to discuss cross walks on Cowpoke and the Vollmer/Cowpoke intersection. There are cut curbs already; the city did note the possibility of a roundabout or possibly lights, but will need to do a traffic study in the near future. Chris noted that we have \$75k in escrow for the lights at both intersections. If it is not used within 10 years the city will refund that money. Scott also mentioned that the APR report from D49 shows we are in good standing but have a number of academic areas of improvement. Scott has added a few comments to the report but not many since many of the comments were factual. Mike mentioned that we should probably change the name of the monthly newsletter to parents from Grand Peak Insider because it is too similar to the old Imagine Insider newsletter. Scott noted that the preliminary SPF is back from the state, and we are predominately showing green, however we dropped from 61 to 55 points. This makes us only 2.5 points from no longer being in the green range so we have a lot of work to do. He noted that Language Arts increased slightly and introduced Serena Brizic, so that she could elaborate on the work we are doing in the area of mathematics. Serena mentioned that she meets with all of the teachers weekly on collaborative data to figure out ways to meet our student's needs. She is working with para professionals to focus on reading and math intervention. They had a PD in writing to focus on written expression and modeling, as well as instructional strategies we can supplement. The math leadership team meets with the district each month as well as a math task force. In middle school we are focusing on math and reading interventions during electives. Also have worked to set a lot of academic procedures in place for the new building. Chris commented that Scott and Dan have had nothing but great comments about Serena and her work. Going back to the SPF, are we not serving the demographics properly? Serena noted that Inez Stabler (D49) has been working a lot with our English learners. There will be a training session on Friday morning to write plans together with the teachers. That should really show growth and educate the teachers on how to help those lower students. We are progress monitoring monthly on STAR. Para professionals meet twice a month and are very on board with the learning community discussions. We are having a lot of active internal conversation about math. We teach very traditional math, which parents love. The challenge is with the way CMAS tests math is different, so we are amping up the common core thinking and concepts to help with the test. So we are utilizing both to keep the math skills strong. Brandon asked about Advanced Reading Challenge and Battle of the Books and whether that was going away. Imagine pushed the ARC program and therefore we ended it with our contract ending. Carolyn Costantino (4th grade teacher) has brought back Battle of the Books this year. Serena mentioned that we can restructure an advanced reading program. We are trying to teach and pack at the same time. Its been an interesting time but seems to be going okay. We are really excited to move.

9. Treasurer/Business Managers Report on Trend (6:41pm) -

10. Discussion Items

- a. Fourth Amendment and Restated Bylaws (6:44pm)** – Eric Hall provided the amended and restated Bylaws. We will have a second reading at the next meeting. Chris will add the facilities plan and bond paperwork as an addendum. Will also change the address to the new location.
- b. Marketing (6:49pm)** – Brandon reported that the marketing committee will be meeting the first Wednesday of each month. There are 8 people on the committee and people are taking on tasks and responsibilities. We have ordered ads in the ACT & ACTII publications. We will have a quarter page ad in the Independent Education Guide, ads in military papers and the d49 newsletter. We did cancel the sneak peek staff and

family tour of the new building this week but the ribbon cutting is still on. Brandon noted that he has invited the D49 communications group; asking them to speak on either the D49 support of charters, what our school means to the D49 portfolio of schools or how important their alignment with us is for the future. He has also invited Andy Franko and everybody in the D49 executive office. There will be a press release sent out this week. Facebook marketing has reached almost 4000 people with events and continues to reach about 4,000 people every month with the Facebook page. Also mentioned that there is a Falcon Community Builders for Classrooms group that meets every quarter. Schools present a request at the meeting and the following quarter the request is either approved or declined. Brandon will explore this opportunity more once we move to our new building.

11. **Board Member Communication** – Chris mentioned that New Life Church met with the board, Scott, Dan and Valerie on Friday evening at the new building. We are negotiating a monthly fee for them to hold church services in our new building on Sundays. They are willing to invest money into the deal, provide janitorial and snow services. They are really trying to be good stewards and partner with us. Chris also noted that the board really wanted to show off the building to the staff this week, however it was just a little too early. There is still some minor work going on, but we are so close and its looking so good. The board is really excited for teachers to see it.
12. **Executive Session** - (7:02pm) Mike motioned to go into executive session, Brandon seconded the motion. Motioned passed 5-0.

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).

C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e) Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators, except that discussion of negotiations relating to collective bargaining or employment contracts shall occur in a public meeting, unless an executive session is otherwise allowed.

Resume Regular Session (7:50pm)

13. **Other Business** (7:50pm) - None
14. **Adjournment** (7:51pm)