



Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021 – 6:30pm

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** (6:30pm) –
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – (6:30pm) -
3. **Mission Statement** – (6:30pm) – Chris Dempsey read the mission statement
4. **Roll Call** (6:31pm) – Chris Dempsey (President), Brandon Henry (Vice President), Jen Reishus (Treasurer), Anthony Hall (Board Member)
5. **Approval of September 20, 2021 Board Agenda** (6:31pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.
6. **Approval of September 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes** (6:32pm) – Brandon motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.
7. **Public Comments** (6:33pm) – None
8. **PTO Update** (6:33pm) – Alicia reported on the PTO happenings. For fundraising, we had a Birdcall day and made about \$550. Going forward we will have a fundraising day at Bubba's on Daylight Savings Day because nobody wants to cook that day! We are currently selling butter braids and have a TON of prizes. Every incentive was donated, so PTO did not have to spend any money out of pocket for the prizes. PTO is going to pair with Character Council in middle school to distribute butter braids; in turn, PTO will supply a DJ for their dance. Book fair and uniform resale is coming up on Oct 7th and 8th. Homecoming Luau was a huge success. Everybody was happy we moved it outside, the breeze worked in our benefit. On Wednesday, we have Walk to School Day. We will start at the playground off Dry Needle Dr. We will have police escort, with live music and goody bags. There is a huge banner for the kids to carry. It sound be a great time! There is a staff incentive for staff to show up; they could win a gift card to Bubba's. Trunk or Treat is coming up Oct 29th. We have a DJ, food trucks etc. planned. Skate City night is coming up. In addition, this Friday we will have pizza and salad for the staff for lunch on PD day. There was a lot of discussion around the idea of having a realtor sponsor the school or give a referral bonus to the school if she gets a sale with a GPA family.
9. **Board Dashboard | Principal's Report** (6:44pm) – Nicole reported that the UIP was approved by the SAC and we submitted it to D49 within the last week or so. The district will submit it to the state from here. The APR is in process and due to the District at the end of the month; this includes academic and financial data from last year. Last year Nicole attended some of the charter school leadership training last year. They have restarted the training this year and Caitlin is attending on our behalf. Amanda attended a CPI training last week as well. This covers certain types of holds and restraints with students, which we hope to avoid but are trained to do it properly if that situation should arise. Reading and Math intervention training has been going amazing. The growth we have seen already has been significant. They are seeing students 2-4 times a week and have completed benchmark testing 2 to 3 times already. It's such a blessing to have those roles in

place. All of the data we are collecting will be part of our MTSS process and will help with those interventions as well. We received notification of the amount we are eligible for with ESSER III funds and are currently working on our plan that needs to be submitted to D49 by Oct 8th. We are required to spend 20% of it on learning loss of specific underrepresented student subgroups disproportionately affected by Covid. The other 80% can be spent on other specific covid related expenses. At this time, we are looking at having ESSER III funds cover salaries and PERA contributions for the math, and reading interventionists, as well as two paraprofessionals that support those programs to address learning loss and the counselor to address mental health issues. We had our first core knowledge day last week in 2nd grade. It was fantastic to experience and see how valuable it is to the students. Alicia briefly talked about Character Council, the first meeting was held last week. Their President is really on top of things and excited about her role. They have big ideas and are already making plans. They will start to contribute in announcements as well. In addition, October 9th there will be board training that our board members will need to attend. Valerie met with Andy Franko last week to discuss our lower enrollment and how it will impact our budget. They discussed ways to offset that with ESSER III funds as well as the plan to refinance the building, which will save approx. \$200K annually. Amanda updated that we are dealing with post covid kids that are lacking socialization skills. There is a tiktok challenge that causes bathrooms to be damaged. Compared to other schools we are seeing a smaller amount of it, but it is a tricky situation to navigate. Trying to stress that this is not who we are or what we stand for. We are starting to see mean girl behavior that is having to be addressed on a large scale. We held the PBiS tour for middle school to address expectations. We will probably need to reiterate a couple of times. Finally, Caitlin reminded us that count day is next week. In order to promote that we will have spirit week with different themes for each day. Hat day, mismatched day, school spirit day, class color day and comfy cozy day will be the themes. As School Assessment Coordinator, one of the tests that is currently running is the CoGat for our students to be assessed for gifted and talented. Once results are received, Ms. Dempsey will determine what other data needs to be collected to create GT learning plans. Additionally, tackling building a sports program. She has contacted a number of area athletic directors as well as determined staff in the building that are interested in coaching sports teams. Probably holding competitive sports is not in the cards for this year, however we are looking at hold club volleyball for girls and boys basketball after fall break. Looking at 9 sessions for skill camps, with more ideas in the winter and spring seasons. Other possible sport: kickball for elementary, soccer, cheer, softball and cross country.

10. **Treasurer | Business Manager Trend Report (7:13pm)** - Our current trend report shows a loss of \$25k thru August 2021, with a projected overall loss of \$280K. If the plan for our ESSER III funds is approved, the combination of that funding as well as the money received from the construction project funds to reimburse the playground modifications should cover most of the anticipated shortfall due to lower than expected enrollment. Once the refinance of the building goes through, we will see some savings there as well, however that probably will not be complete till Nov or Dec, making the savings for this year less than originally anticipated. That will have a significant impact on our budget annually going forward as well.

11. **Discussion Items**

- a. **Board Discussion to appoint Chris Dempsey to a 2nd 4yr term (7:16pm)** – None
- b. **Election procedures for open board seat (7:17pm)** – Bylaws state we need to have the majority of the board as parent elected board members. We have decided to have 7 positions so we can have staggering of board seats as well as a succession plan going forward. We appointed two parents from the previous call for applications and will hold an election for one more position. We have encouraged parents that were interested in the board appointed position but not selected to apply for the election.

12. **Action Items**

- a. **Board approval to appoint Chris Dempsey to a 2nd 4yr term** (7:19pm) – Brandon motioned to appoint Chris Dempsey to a 2nd 4th year term. Anthony seconded the motion. Chris abstained from voting. Motion passes 3-0.
- b. **Oath of Office of Jeremy Rickard and Jennifer Pelham to Board of Directors** (7:20pm) – Chris completed the oath with both Jeremy and Jennifer, making them official board members.

13. **Other Business** (7:21pm) –

- a. **BoD October Training** (7:21pm) – Reminder that there is board training coming up on October 8th.
- b. **Bond Rating** (7:22pm) – We will have a bond rating call with Moody's coming up on Tuesday, in conjunction with the building refinance. When we originally went through the process to build the building, Moody's could not give us a rating because of the relationship with Imagine and the process of separating from them. This time around, we should have a better chance at a rating which will give us a better rate for the refinance. We will have a call on Friday to go over what to expect and then the actual rating call will be Tuesday.

14. **Adjournment** (7:24pm) – None