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# May 10, 2023

Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Board Chair, Doug Keefe convened the meeting at 5:05 PM.

Meeting style: Face to Face

Attendees Included:

Board Officers attending:: Doug Keefe; Kari Plaster

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Tina Gillman

Tracy Evans

Kit Anderton

Ilana Harrus

Tim Porter

Administration:

Angela Pontious

Bethany Hansen

Chris Wright

Jeff Biesinger – Red Apple

Board Members Absent:

Steve Barth

Anne Tuckett

Kristi Swett

Meeting to called to order at 5:06 PM

**Review and Approval of Past Board Meeting Minutes**:

Kari motioned to approve prior meeting’s minutes (April 12th and May 9th), Tina seconded. Motion passed

**SPA Building Lease, Core Academics and Charter Status and Plans:**

Approved the lease in May 9th meeting. That has been a big subject in order to be able to move on to the rest of the subjects. Needed to solve that first, and now need to discuss a lot of transition considerations today.

The membrane and roof needs a little bit of work. Causing a few leaks.

A few spots on the rood need to be replaced.

Kit: will help lead the search to hirell someone to do what their current building manager (Trent) does, managing the operations of the building.

The only contingency left is the inspection.

Core Academics: need to have additional venues for performing spaces; Westminster partnership to be evaluated

Bethany, Chris and Angela have been looking at all of the options. Looked at new partners and schedules. Chris has done some research. This is very eye opening. Our end goal (not in year one) is to have an Arts Integrated Curriculum. Spoke to a consultant to get her ideas. We need a transition year for us to be able to get there.

Feedback Survey: some parents didn’t get it. Want to make sure we get that to all of our parents.

A summary of academic options presented:

**Highland Hybrid Schedule:**

A or B day at Highland or SPA.

Financial piece is missing – what will it cost us if only a small portion of kids do this. To be determined with SLCSD.

**Option Two: SPA Hybrid Schedule**

Hire an in-house language (English and Math) also supported by SPED

No back and forth required.

Potential for accelerated learning.

Social Studies and Science would be part of Utah Students Connect. They could opt into SEATs. Get no grades.

**Option 3: Elite Academic Offerings**

Westminster, U of U and SLCC all offer this. SPA would pay for that concurrent enrollment. $5 per credit. This is a fantastic deal. 3.2 GPA for Seniors and lower GPAs for other kids.

Get elite and academic possibilities.

Have two core classrooms, there will be labs with success coaches checking in on them every other day.

Bus won’t pickup students if there is a TRAX Red Line option.

Parent: Her daughter has 5 classes at Highland. What about in the middle of the day? Maybe morning at one place and afternoon another. Not fair for kids to eat on the bus. We could offer 1 of those 5 at SPA except that all of the classes are honors, except AP.

AP options aren’t great. Taking a concurrent enrollment from the U isn’t the same as taking AP.

What about Utah schools? The early high school program (nonmatriculated). Students who have a lot of help from parents, between SLCC and U, better to do this.

Universities are not required to honor that credit; although showing that you stepped beyond the norm.

What about the Charter? We can always negotiate another charter as we evolve.

Want to have a plan so we can work on this ourselves. Wants it for the long-term.

The long-term is not established yet.

We will need to make an Honors track. There is a social component where the kids get attached to their friends. Having a team to root for.

More discussion s needed with the District. The Highland option is not off the table.

We are going to engage a SPA Advocate (Jeremy Chatterton) at Highland.

Parent concern: the chatter is we want to move on from Highland.

The Charter needs to be amended, is there a penalty for breaking the Charter?

Three potential Charter Authorizer options: District, State Board of Education (Charter School Board), Higher Education

We will actively seek Westminster as our Charter Authorizer. Timing not on our side, it’s a 3-6 month transition. Westminster approval process will take up to a year. Need a transition year with SLCSD

Another question: elite options with universities. Logistically how does that work? They would have to build their own schedule. We are always trying to provide options to kids who want to do that. Some are in person and on campus, others can be online. TRAX Red Line is very close to the U and they are doing great. Classes they can take are limited? There is a menu of concurrent enrollment offerings.

Another question: is it possible to have a dual partnership for a Charter? Our access to SLCC is through the District.

All the options will exist? All 3 are options. Yes.

Classes at SLCC and the U can be ion-line or on campus.

Concurrent enrollment teachers: we have a partnership to do this. Half of them are college teachers already. Even kids from Highland have come here for that.

Will your success coaches be licensed? Will they be FT? To be further evaluated.

Started child here without knowing.

One parent view is we should have been transparent about the whole thing along the way. Allowing us to be a part of the conversation. Board responded that meetings have been open and the minutes and recordings have been availabile

Another question: is there a dual enrollment option? We have one or two from East and one or two from West. Some kids do that.

Parent asked whether her student will have a connection still to Highland, could she come over for the dance things, etc.

This has been a good thing for her, balancing academics and thriving. Both she has the rigor and the decompression and I am trying to manage that should that dissolve? If she needs the ballet class, is that still an option?

Think we need to have a Townhall meeting.

**Student Council Update**

Update didn’t occur as Council president absent

**Artistic Director Update**

14 students for shadow day this week. Matilda

Emerson Bates for supporting actor category. Catherine Omera both kids are up for that on Saturday.

Broadway Dreams are coming this week, a choreographer from NY. They will plug our intensive.

June 5th is the evening of excellence.

**Counselor and Graduation Update**

Last year graduation was 93%. We had one student graduate early. Working hard with seniors to get them across the finish line. Meeting with seniors in the theatre tomorrow for kids to give us feedback and where they are going.

One of our seniors got a full-ride for Mechanical Engineering. Want to track kids. Chris shared the exit survey with Highland counselors and they are thinking of using that.

Graduation is at the Grand Theatre. Auditions for the showcase, etc.

Senior sunrise and senior sunset. We had them write letters to themselves.

**Marketing and Fundraising Committee Report = Collide Update**

Tina: Collide is May 20th, Cara, Lindsay and Tina, this is the best lineup we have ever had. Excited about some of the artists playing. We also have double the amount of vendors. 25 of 30 have accepted. Grab posters in the front office. Collide has its own Instagram page. Still spaces open (there is a link in the e-mail). We need volunteers for people to sign up.

**PTO Update**

No update. Mike, we are helping with Collide. PTO will have a space.

**Administrative Report**

193 enrollment today. We are approaching 30 for incoming 9th Grade. We have Shadow Day on Friday and have 14 coming for that. This is teacher appreciation week. Give kudos to teachers and parent.

Faculty and Staff: we are looking at moving forward with agreements for next year. The teachers are anxious. 90% there with what Chris said, teachers and support, FT Custodian is also a bus driver. Need that to change. What do you hear from teachers? We do have a couple of teachers who are leaving, one is going to graduate school: Nick Petty and one other person is getting married and moving South.

**Finance Report, including Preliminary Budget Review for Fiscal 2023/24**

Need 300 students to break even. Need to fund the need while we get there. This is a combo of rebuilding the student enrollment and fundraising. We have to get aggressive.

Jeff: Red Apple financial update

We are 83% of the way through with two months left. Revenues are at 77% of our budgeted revenue. We should get about $132k from Federal grants. As far as expenses, we went through the forecast, not too major changes; tracking as expected. Surplus of just under $70k. Enrollment stayed steady.

Bank account: just over $1mm and this is an important detail.

Next years budget: different than we have done last year, we have 2 scenarios:

150 versus 200 students: local revenue the same. Donations and fund raising a big factor for next year.

State revenue: if we get 200, revenues will go up. At 150 students there wont be much change in our revenues. 60% comes from the WPU.

The main concern we heard was around academics. These options here were really good; but ots of risk in transition

Will do one more round of this in June. The student number keeps moving through Oct. 1st., when measured for state revenue calculations

New location closer to I-15, maybe this will help, also closer to the subway.

Federal revenue stays the same. Esser funds will go away slowly and the last will go away in Sept. of 2024.

Funding if at 200 goes up a little under 200,000. If at 150,000 goes down by about 80,000.

With our relationship with Highland, we will bring some things in-house. Expenses will go up about $200,000. The Highland bill goes way down. Benefits increase slightly as well.

Contracted Services: Highland takes care of SPED and we pay them. Next year we will do that ourselves. Very normal for charters to do this. Too many needs to do this in-house. Great consultants to do this. We have taken our legal costs down as well.

In the 400 accoungts, the rental of the new facility is the biggest change here. Annual rent is $60k per month. Included another $50,000 for performance spaces in the event we need it.

500 accounts, the only change here taking out what we normally pay to Highland, usually $600,000 to them. Moving that down to $150,000 to assist in paying these fees.

600 accounts,: fairly similar. This will be a more efficient building, reduced office supplies, etc. Angela is careful to track these.

Some furniture and computer equipment is about $25k.

At end of this, with 200 students, we are hoping these are worst case scenarios. Property taxes and adding students as well as fund raising. Lose $750,000 - $1M next year. With 150 we wipe out our cash. Balance the budget with fundraising. Matter of time before state Board of Education contacts us as well. We will need to show them the plan.

There are a few things that can be capitalized.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Next Meeting Scheduled – Wednesday, June 14th at 5:00 PM