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# Mar. 8, 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: Doug Keefe; Steve Barth; Kari Plaster

In Attendance: Board Members:

Tina Gillman

Tracy Evans

Kit Anderton

Ilana Harrus

Tim Porter

Administration:

Angela Pontius

Mike Stumph

Bethany Hansen

Red Apple: Business Manager

Parents;

Tonia Martynez

Mike Tuckett

Anne Tuckett

Lisa McBride

Vicki Fitlow

Not in Attendance:

Kristi Swett

Agenda included the following items:

* Principal Transition – Lucas Charon Resignation and Angela Pontius Appointment. Principal Evaluation and Search Plan.

Lucas Charon has resigned. Friendly and he will stay available to us. Working on a transition with Angela Pontius, Interim Acting Principal. Asked Bethany to help in supporting her to do that. Congratulations to both of you. We will complete a formal search as well. What is the salary for the Principal? We need it to be competitive. We can post with Josh Love (a contact of Anne Tuckett’s)

Angela offered her excitement and appreciation! Bethany is a rock star, everyone is willing to support. Mike Stumph also chimed in, the kids are in support as well.

* SPA Charter, Building and Lease Status and Plans – Westminster MOU and Transition Plan

Sent announcement out last week. Signed an MOU to move to Westminster. Lots of stuff to be coordinated including sharing space. Eventually you should go visit. New everything including administrative space that has capacity. Need to continue working on the detail of this transition and a contract.

Question is whether or not we stay or leave from Highland in the future. They could continue to be providing our core curriculum with us. As a school, need to review all of our options. We won’t be here at all next year.

Parent Question: are we at capacity? No our enrollment is not at capacity. We could fit 400 students. Westminster is going to be a huge attraction factor. It all is a better marketing message, very attractive!

Parent Concern: feels concerned about keeping the high school experience as a child. I am concerned that it is turning into a university experience at 15. We are growing our kids up too fast. Mixing in our kids with college kids. This has been a center point of the discussion. Need clubs and school experiences, and things like that.

Bethany Hansen: this has to be centered around space. This is about children. We don’t have things signed. Our liaison is phenomenal, he is on the faculty there. He showed me through the spaces. We want an entire floor of a building and a lobby and 6 classrooms with Administration upstairs. This is very close, very simple to navigate triangle of space for just us. This is very exciting, and we will have a lobby. Wanted to have a space for the kids to go. There is a parking lot right outside the door. With administrative offices, counseling offices and private spaces as well. As far as our schedule and courses, they have put together our classes. We run on A/B, and they have reorganized their schedules. There are two classes we have to figure out.

Same courses are going to be offered, sewing and woodworking and things like that. What about after school dance and things like that? How is that offered? Real club space after school. If those classes are ours, they will be ours. That space will be ours. We don’t want to share the class spaces, but they are really working with us. Dance studios and choir room will be shared. Right now we have our own sewing room that will just be SPA. How do we maintain the culture of SPA as a faculty?

Steve Barth: we can get the sports experience still. What about the year after this? We could continue with Highland, as well. Right now we are contracted with Highland for the entire year.

Last thing I want is that the University football will be her team. Right now the option for that sort of activity is sports.

Ilana Harrus: the other example of this is in Ogden, the students can attend University and receive credit. Some of them can also receive an Associated Degree. The worry is that the immersion with other adults is important. Parents choose to take their kids to university. This is a small school.

Tracy Evans: a good comparison, we will try to continue to have our culture here and we have great people here who are looking after that.

* Review and Approval of Past Board Minutes.

Kari moved we approve the minutes for both meetings, Kit Anderton seconded. All unanimously approved.

* Marketing and Fundraising Committee Report

Lindsey, Angela and Tina met this last week. Lindsey is going to be reporting to Angela. Biggest efforts on shadow days. Went over with Lindsey our top 8 feeder schools, we want to fill our remaining shadow days. Suggested another lunch table at SLARTS. Lots of chatter there about SPA.

Collide is next big event. Gotten some feedback that there are students and staff that haven’t heard enough about Collide. Here’s a link to the website, etc… we do need some volunteers. We need coordination with vendors and the snack table. Plan now is to send an email to Angela to send announcements,

Anne Tuckett: bone of contention is communicating. We need school communicating with parents. If we could put together a sign-up genius for SPA. Need a platform for SPA to communicate with the parents.

PTO President: The school needs a solid person to help with parents. Need at least 5 parents that could be the executive PTO Board. We tried to recruit parents to do that and couldn’t get anyone to step up. If someone says I am willing to help, need to help manage that. Needs to be seen as the community.

Angela: PowerSchool messenger just became available. Talk with Kim and Wes to see why it is such a process.

Parent Square: platform which is digital and volunteer hours can be submitted virtually.

IT will most likely be transitioned. Wes has been in contact with Westminster. Becoming clear that we need a full time position that needs to be marketing and fundraising. Angela: idea is person would not be remote, they would be here with us. AMDA were here last week and we have no photos or posts.

Tracy: most skillsets don’t include both grant making as well as marketing. This can be two positions.

Kari: let’s ensure that we have the right people in the right seats. We need marketing, communications, etc…

Could potentially look at getting someone part time to help with grant writing.

Steve: finding a new principal is the big deal.

Doug: this is the time to budget for next year.

Tina: Lindsey’s contract ends in June.

Parent Reaction: we have not gotten an opportunity to get the word out to the community about attending SPA. Provide marketing materials at those shadow days. Our goal, 5 shadow days, 40 kids each and getting 20 kids out of each of those.

Who follows up to call parents after the shadow day to learn why we didn’t get students.

Can we use Westminster as part of our shadow days? Create a video of the spaces so it can be shown at the shadow day.

 Lisa: is there someone who I can speak to about the shadow days? Last year had a very hard time finding information. There were problems on the website.

Tina: we just relaunched the website. It wasn’t clear what we were filling out the application for. Should encourage the parent to attend with the high school student. Should do something with the parents as well. Get the parents involved.

Steve: in a position of transition. Need to improve and we are starting and fixing things. The principal is a key cog in that. We need your input and involvement.

* Finance Report

Jeff with Red Apple: on the summary if you look at the Benefits line, the number is very odd. The ERC is a credit to our FICA. We have a negative expense. Other than that, not much has changed. Labor is the largest expense, will be important to get that soon. Local Replacement Fund is going up by $175 per student.

Steve: more changes coming at the legislative level.

* Art Director Update

Bethany Hansen: faculty are very happy about the transition. Very special to say we are excited, what can we do. They are thinking of what they need and coming to us. We just don’t want to burn them out. This is not an overnight transition, this is long-haul. We need to let everyone know what this means.

Angela will receive feedback tomorrow about their intentions for next year.

What is the process for staff contracts? Once I hear back from people who are staying, I will be checking in with them again. Intent to return is my tool to use. Angela and Bethany will look at the schedule next week to see what is needed.

Would like for teacher contracts to be executed by mid-May.

Accreditation Day Today Update: every 5 years schools go through accreditation, deep-dive about goals, progress, etc. One of the reasons I was hired was so that I could learn the process for accreditation Looked at state report card, attendance and graduation rates. Wrote a long report submitted on Feb. 1, 2023. We met with Brian from Cognia today at 7:30. He met with teachers and students throughout the day today. We had a lunch today with Brian and 8 students. Had leadership meeting with Bethany, Chris and me. We met with an evaluator right after. They asked very minimal questions. Brian closed out with a s3cond set of teachers. The vibe here was incredible. He was in the rehearsal today for the musical. Final report will be submitted in June. Will do this again in 6 years.

* Administrative Report

Student Enrollment, Recruiting and Trends

School Operations, SLC School District and State Board of Education

Student Fee Schedule Review and Discussion: Bethany worked with Faculty to look at fees with classes, minor changes. From here, we will post that on our website. Vote on that in April.

Land Trust Committee Update – We need to vote this evening on how to use the Land Trust Funds. Kari, Tina, Ilana and myself. We purchase social emotional learning programs and stipends for teachers to prep lessons. Are there any other options to explore? Feedback is that we believe the advisory program is a good thing and aligns with the school. What they don’t like is that it is condescending. Mike runs it every week The content is valuable, how it is presented is not good for high school students. Teachers can run it how they see fit. Why am I paying for a company to give content? I appreciate that a professional has put it together. I feel like it is great and it works for me. It’s presented in a cringy way. What about a daily headspace? If all the teachers ran it like you, it would be good, but maybe some training is good.

Angela: sounds like it needs a relook. We have to submit the report by April 1. We will use land trust funds to build a program. We aren’t required to use the program. Same comments last year.

Tina moves we use the land trust funds for the advisory program. Kari seconds. The land trust plan approved.

* Board Membership, PTO, Training and Bio Update

Next year is our Board succession. We need a PTO President and are hoping Anne Tuckett will take this on next year. We will schedule a Board Training next year.

Lack of costume support for the Imaginary Invalid. Advertised to the French Community. Every night we missed money on the show. We sent 10 people away each night. My question was having the program for more time, not less. Can we find a school we can perform for?

We need to look at photos and things like that for parents.

Playwright has to be dead for 70 years and not be renewed.

Next Meeting Scheduled- Wednesday, April 12th at 5 PM

Tracy motioned to adjourn. Closed meeting at 6:46 PM