**School Board Recap, February 26, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm

**Consent Agenda**

Approved

**Open Forum**

* One parent suggested naming the library after Marcy Zachmeier-Ruh and submitted a letter with signatures to the Board about doing so. The parent had gathered over 125 signatures thus far. The Board took the information to consider at committee and will discuss at later date based on committee recommendation.
* The Union President spoke, stating that the first part of a proposal brought to them by an interested parent group was supported by the union. The Union President stated the union did not support the second part of the proposal to have ex-officio PTO and union members on the Board, but commented it is important for the Board to consider the importance of the concern brought forward.
* A parent brought up that our second draft of opting out of standardized testing does not reflect the changes she had asked for, specifically how students who opt out will be supervised or instructed. She commented on edits she would like to see in the second draft.
* A parent expressed wanting the Board to review the two proposals that had been sent to the Governance Committee for review. The parent wants the Board to reflect on these proposals and give assistance to help the community better understand the decision process. The parent wants more communication between the committees and the Board and have transparency in the process of how concerns are brought forward to the Board.
* A parent brought up the donor wall and requested the Board reconsider having a donor wall in the school. The parent highlighted how many parents are giving time and donating to multiple opportunities, not just one campaign. The parent questioned if a donor wall in a school is really appropriate. The parent stated she believes donor walls are sterile and that it doesn’t represent the creative community of kids. The parent asked if it was possible to get the assistance of the art teachers to create something to honor the time and finances of the parents/community. The parent asked if the idea of a donor wall could be modified to something done by the kids. The parent expressed concern that the money donors gave TCGIS will now be going back to buy the donor wall, and not back to the kids and academics.
* Another parent spoke and expressed concern that a donor wall could prohibit diversifying our community.
* Another parent also wanted to honor people’s time--volunteers, host families, etc. She suggested skipping names to keep it simple, but wants volunteers and the community to be honored. She wants new parents to be aware of the volunteering/community culture of our school and fears a donor wall could infringe on this.

**Board matters**

* 2015-2016 School Calendar: Teacher input was discussed and they wanted to start right before Labor Day (Sept. 1). Version 1 of the calendar was approved and is now posted on the school website.
* To clarify correspondence between the public and the Board, one Board member raised the issue of how the Board decides who takes on emails and how the Board knows when it has been dealt with. One Board member suggested having different committees with different areas of focus take on the relevant emails--if an issue pertains to your committee you respond. A concern about “closing the loop properly” came up and a question was raised on what the protocol should be if one singular Board member received an email. It was agreed to ask the writer of the email if it whould be shared. The Board agreed an organizational method needs to be established. One Board member suggested the chair take on the emails unless he can pass it to someone else, and he can delegate. A suggestion arose to get a partial FTE to handle board-related emails.
* Library Naming Issue: The Board agreed to send the item to the Communications and Development Committee as there is time to have it addressed before the Grand Opening.

**Director’s Report**

* There was a contracted hiring proposal for a parent in the community to help develop a more robust Volunteer Program--Approved.
* Regarding a policy for standardized testing opt out, a second draft was presented with grammatical changes, and minor edits. The Board discussed what the legal laws are regarding opting in or opting out. One Board member brought up concerns about the form--is the language making it hard for people to opt out? Are we discouraging them from making their own decision? One board member suggested putting in the words “it is your right as a parent to opt in or out.” The form was approved with suggested edits to simplify and make the form more family friendly.

**Financial Committee**

* The committee discussed the need to look at this year’s finances with move in costs to determine the budget for the next year. The fund balance will not increase much. The complexity in budgeting next year is caused by the unpredictable costs of this this fiscal year with "one time" start up costs to the expanded building.
* The Board approved the fiscal 2015 990 form with the IRS.

**Transportation Committee**

* Busing: The Board reviewed the pro and con list for using St. Paul district busing. Denying this motion does not mean the Board won’t look at using charter transportation, bus passes, cooperating with other schools, or other options. The motion was approved not to participate in district busing for 2015-2016, but to continue looking at other options.

**Personnel Committee**

* Negotiations Update--progress continues as the union and school present their proposals.

**Governance Committee**

* Final reading of Parent/Teacher liaison updated roles - Approved
* The Governance Committee continues revising the ByLaws. The proposals brought by a parent group were tabled. Proposal two has since been withdrawn and proposal one will be considered at the next Governance Committee.

**Communication and Development**

* Small edits were made to charter - Approved.
* Grand Opening - The Board considered a corporate sponsorship package for the event. The Finance Committee would like to talk about creating a policy to determine accepting or rejecting sponsors as a charter school. Are there any ramifications if we deny a sponsorship opportunity? Approval was denied at this time until a policy can be created.
* Move to Excellence --this will be the final year for a spring campaign to raise money for the move in and completion of the new building. The campaign will happen in the first two weeks of May.

Adjourned at 8:26pm