



Board Minutes May 14, 2020

Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83552031118> 5:30pm

- Meeting was called to order on Zoom at 5:33pm
- Board- Roll Call- Dave Taber, Michael Lane, Rebecca Denzer, Monica Smith- present
Josh Binning, Jon Lippitz, Anne Thompson Kelly - absent
- Public Comment
No public comment
- Review of February 19, 2020 Minutes
Motion to approve Dave Taber and Rebecca Denzer seconded motion.
- Financial Reports
Michael Lane reported out the financial report they are reconciled since March. Per capita Revenues are on budget. Our enrollment has stayed steady. Fundraising has been down because of pandemic since we usually reach out to donors in the spring. .
 - PPP Loan: applied for, approved by the board and received in the amount of \$426,000
 - IFF Construction Loan: *We will be moving forward with this. Most contracts are signed and ready to continue with the construction projects. Dave questioned about the interest rate of the loan. The re chartering of only 3 years makes it difficult to find a lender who is willing to negotiate. Michael Lane spoke about concerns about enrollment for 2020-2021 school year because the Pandemic. We have told staff yesterday that there is a freeze on pay raises. There has been no cuts in staffing since this pandemic and even have brought on more staff. We do not see a decrease in pay or staffing in the future.*
- Enrollment Report (Kinney)
Current enrollment is 356 scholars who are enrolled in the 2019-2020 school year. We began the year with 355 and we currently have 356. The vast majority of our 32 withdrawals is due to from paying the activity fee. We have reduced the fee to \$ 35 dollars and payment plans.
- Board Training 2020 (Josh Binning)
Michael Lane stated that there would be 4 hours of training before the end of the year. There are webinar trainings that we could use for that.
- GRCS COVID Response (Lane)
On March 3, there was a letter to parents and staff about the precautions of COVID 19. On March 6, we revised the attendance policy in regards to COVID. March 13 governor announced closure; we sent home a letter to parents March 15 while we were on Spring Break. March 22 some scholars were using GRCS online resources and we began remote food services. April 6 rolled out online learning including distribution of chrome books. April 27 rolled out online elective programming. Beginning May 17, we will begin farmers to families' food program. Through this program, we will be giving out huge boxes of produce of food to parents. We have ordered three pallets about 180 boxes to begin this Tuesday. Every Tuesday from 10-12 will be when this is distributed. We are hoping to serve not just our families, but also to the community as a whole. We have lent out over 200 chrome books. All families that have stated they needed one have been provided a Chromebook.
- On Line Learning (Alyuosuf)
Our Spring Break was the first week of the stay at home order so luckily we had a little head start strategizing and seeing what was happening everywhere else. The next week we began brainstorming with the staff and addressing basic needs first- scholar phone calls, social/emotional check ins, assessing technology access and needs. The following week we began Google classroom training. We have been up



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and running on that since early April. Now, every grade is running a morning meeting, plus 2-4 core subjects daily, depending on the grade.

- **Parent Training Support (Puckett)**
At the beginning of E-Learning, we held three different Zoom Meetings for parents. During these meetings, we taught parents how to navigate google classroom and the expectations for E Learning. We also have Dean Office hours twice a week where parents can come in and talk with us about concerns or issues they are facing. Our Social Worker is scheduling Support Zoom Meetings for families that range from topics of how to help your child be successful in an e learning platform to how to support your social emotional needs of your child.
- **Electives (Smith)**
We originally started up offering many different electives for 4th-8th grade scholars that range from CSI forensics to theater. After feedback from families and staff, we are now offering electives for our k-3 scholars. We are offering fitness classes, Spanish, praying mantis class, and others. We are appealing to 130 scholars.
- **Attendance and Grading Policy (Alyousuf)**
State stated the E learning cannot negatively affect scholars, but attendance must be tracked. What we do is that they are given assignments and feedback is given to them from instructors. They need to turn in all core subjects in order to be in attendance.
- **Community Connections (SD Parade, Yard Blitz, Story Time, Town Hall) (Kinney)**
We have been working hard at reaching our community during this time. The first community outreach we did was a social distancing parade in our cars while driving by scholars' houses, our yard sign blitz where staff wrote notes and then delivered them in one day. The next community connection was our COVID 19 town hall where they were able to talk to a doctor with any concerns. Scholars submitted questions prior to the meeting. We also just started doing a weekly story time on Facebook. Two of our events have had TV coverage: Our yard blitz and Model UN.
- **Next Year 2020-21 (Lane)**
- **Staffing (Boeddeker)**
No update on staffing since the last meeting we had.
- **High School Placement (Sharma)**
This year we have one scholar who is fulling enrolled and six other scholars who are working on being enrolled into Rockford Lutheran. We have one scholar interested in Boylan.
- **Graduation (Sharma)**
At 12:00 pm on the 29th we will be doing a staff parade to celebrate them before graduation.
- **Northwestern Placement (Smith)**
Last year we had 20 scholars to participate and this year prior to COVID, we had 14 scholars who were going to participate. They are still offering programs, but in a virtual schedule. We have eight scholars who are interested in the virtual setting of this program.
- **Project Passport Updates (Lane)**
 - Africa trip has been canceled for this school year.
 - Costa Rica has been canceled for this year.
 - Utah has been canceled for this year.
 - DC has been canceled for this year.



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- Any Additional Board Business

Galapagos Rockford Charter School is dedicated to preparing scholars to be responsible, productive, college-educated adults capable of adapting and prospering in the changing global economy.

Core Values of Galapagos: Grit Drive Growth Mindset

Next Board Meeting – TBA (New Fiscal Year)

Don't forget graduation is May 29 at 5:30pm on ZOOM!