



**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 20, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Harris, Tamara Prince, Tiffini Adams, Lisa Jensen, Katy Andrews, Catherine Cargill, Deborah Feder

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Wadsworth, Shellee Getts, Daphne Williams, Michelle Roper

EXCUSED: Greta deJong

Harris called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors of the Salt Lake Arts Academy to order. Harris called for approval of the meeting minutes from September 11, 2009. Harris stated if there were no changes; let's continue with the approval of approval of the September 2009 meeting minutes. Cargill motioned and Andrews seconded. All Approved.

FINANCE:

Wadsworth stated that the school is doing well at staying true to the budget. One of the areas that we are going to be mindful of and working closely with the finance sub-committee is to have a real goal at going over our budget to protect the 200,000 surplus. We will need that to carry over to next year. We will be cautious about expenditures. The school has been well supported and doing well financially. The ARA money plus money from the parents is helping to underwrite the technology updates. It's important to start to stockpile as much money as we can.

We will be getting a better sense from legislature about cuts for next year. We ended the 1st term in good shape with our funding goals inline considering expenditures were heavier the first quarter. We were surprised by heating & cooling costs being more this year.

Our effort at connecting to families & keeping them in the loop with a big focus on treatment of families and students has been made possible with the Google group emails for SLARTS. Teachers are increasingly getting to use it as well as students. The goal is to have seamless communication between home, students and the school. Feder asked if there were teachers that weren't using it. Wadsworth stated that some teachers are using it less but feels that will increase with the implementation of many more computers in each classroom. Older students seem to be using it quite a bit.

Andrews stated that Asset protection and Compensation of Benefits reports appear to be missing from the packet. Wadsworth stated that they were and she would complete those reports for the next meeting. Katy moved that those to be discussed at the next meeting. Wadsworth stated that with regards to compensation & benefits instead of cutting salaries some of their summer work days were cut. Also some of the ARA money has been designated towards onetime bonus projects which

address the goals of our school. The teachers document the project and receive a bonus for the work. Wadsworth stated that a reevaluation of our benefits package will be compared with other options to see we are getting the best deal.

Harris called for approval of finance reports with the Asset Protection & Compensation of Benefits to the January 2010 meeting: Motion to approve by Feder and Prince seconded. All approved.

DEVELOPMENT:

We have already exceeded the goal for the IT Campaign with the campaign concluding on November 24, 2009. 50% of families have participated but we still need 100% of Board participation. Adams asked about the difference of participation and money raised in the Sally Foster campaign. Williams stated that Sally Foster only brought in about 10,000 with a lot of man hours. Williams stated that parents are very grateful that we did not do Sally Foster again this year. Andrews stated that there seemed to be a lot of participation from people that do not have kids here (friends, grandkids, alumni, etc.). Williams stated that the donations between grades seems to be equally distributed but amount wise there seemed to be some holding back from the 8th grade parents due to Tetons. Wadsworth stated that those families that have history with the school that have already decided to make their donation in the Spring for the Gala.

GOVERNANCE:

Harris stated that he contacted Maria Koshy about joining the Board but she did not think that would be possible due to her schedule but is interested in joining the Academic Excellence committee. Maria Koshy recommended another parent, Vicky Thompson. Wadsworth stated that she will call Vicky to see of her interest.

Potential New Members:

Andrews recommended Robert Dick who is currently serving on Development Committee. He works for Sundance and has a 7th grader attending the school. He is enthusiastic about joining the Board and very supportive of the school. He is available in February of 2010.

Harris asked for a motion to approve Robert Dick as a new member of the Board. Motion to approve by Cargill and Adams seconded. All approved.

Wadsworth stated that she has two recommendations. The first is Mary Tull who would provide a strong development background as well as arts education. Wadsworth stated that Tull would be delighted to join the Board. Wadsworth's second recommendation is Peter Christie who is over ballet education at Ballet West and has a student attending our school. Wadsworth has asked Christie if he would like to be on the Board and he has stated he would. Wadsworth stated that Marriott Bartholomew is another candidate and she will contact her to see if she is interested. Cargill asked if training would be provided. Andrews stated that a training session would be held to orient them onto the Board and answer any questions they may have. Harris stated that our goal is to have four new Board members. Harris asked for a motion to approve Tull & Christie onto the Board. Motion to approve by Prince and Andrews seconded. All approved. Andrews stated that training would be conducted in January. Wadsworth stated that they would be invited to the Board social in December

and then the first official meeting would be in January since there is no Board meeting in December. Cargill suggested that Thomsen & Bartholomew could join in January but still attend the training before hand.

Wadsworth stated that she will be out of town for the next scheduled meeting and would like to know if the Board would like to meet on either January 9th or 22nd instead? The Board stated that January 22nd would be better for everyone and would include the new Board members. Prince stated that orientation should fall the week of January 11th for the new members.

FINANCE:

Wadsworth stated that everyone has a copy of the Plan Overview to be reviewed and voted on. This is also called the Utah Consolidated Application (UCA). Wadsworth stated that when looking at the federal or title monies and state monies, the report asks what our goals are with regards to these monies and how are we going to address our goals, how are we going to use these monies to support our goals. The goal was to look at math achievement of 5th grade students all through their 4 years here. The strategy was to develop teacher proficiency to work with underachieving students. The grant money that was discussed early is the money that will be used towards teacher bonuses as part of this program. This is not ongoing, it is onetime money. The action steps will be professional development with teachers meeting monthly. The money will help to offset the SOAR classes and is a way to offset the special education costs, development of specialized classes, Google group link between home & school, etc. Second goal is to increase language & writing proficiency for all grades. The final goal is to increase parent involvement by tying into technology. Harris asked how the money used is reported. Getts stated that the money spent is reported back to the state every month. Harris asked for a motion to approve Plan Overview or otherwise known as the UCA and the way in which the funds are used as outlined in the overview. Motion to approve by Prince and Adams seconded. All approved.

Feder asked what the teachers are doing with the money set aside for extended curriculum for the gifted students. Wadsworth stated that the teachers are able to purchase materials for students at a higher level. Wadsworth stated that the goals in the plan overview tie in to reviewing our data. It will be very similar and can borrow some of the same strategies and steps to use for the Academic Excellence and moving forward with the preservation.

Adams stated that the Association of Accredited schools is a 3 year process in which Charters are required to participate. Wadsworth stated that the process must start in 2010 and we are required to file by October of 2010. Cargill asked if there is any monetary benefit for participating. Wadsworth stated that there is not and if anyone is brought in to participate from outside of the school, the school is required to pay their fees. Cargill asked if there is any opportunity for grants. Wadsworth stated there isn't because accreditation happens for so many schools that grant organizations might not be as interested in funding something that would be considered operating procedure. Wadsworth is hoping that the cost will not exceed \$500. Adams stated that the process appears to be a 3 part process in which three years are given to accomplish all processes. Adams stated that at the Academic Excellence meeting a checklist was handed out and appears as an internal audit. The initial thought is

that the Board would answer most of the questions with a steering committee to assist. Prince stated that surveys will need to be completed as part of the self evaluation. This survey will be handed out to Teachers, Parents and Students. Through that survey a report is compiled. Wadsworth stated that the data gathering must be done to include strengths, weaknesses, how you are going to improve with demonstrating that we have gone through that process. Feder asked if there would be a duplication of purpose between steering committee and Board? Wadsworth stated that would not be the case as the steering committee should have 2 teachers, 2 parents, etc. Cargill asked if any outside individuals would be on the Academic Committee. Cargill stated that she has someone that would be a good candidate for the committee. Wadsworth stated that a building committee is in charge of collecting data and helping to figure out what the school is doing in response to that data. Then there is a response team from the organization that comes in to look at the data and give feedback about the process. The individuals that come in from outside are often times people that have been through accreditation such as Principals and they provide feedback to move to the final step. Once the response gives approval to move forward the school is then placed in provisional status for three years. Wadsworth stated that at least 2 teachers should be included on the Academic Committee to represent the faculty. Harris asked who on the Board would be a part of the Academic Excellence Committee. Board members that have stated they would like to be on the committee are Prince, Wadsworth, Cargill, Harris & Adams. Harris asked when the next Academic Excellence meeting would be. Adams stated it would be December 14, 2009 at 4pm.

Upcoming Sub-Committee Meeting Schedule:

Finance: December 9, 2009

Academic Excellence: December 14, 2009 at 4pm

Governance: December 4 at 8:30am. This meeting will cover training.

Facilities: Wadsworth stated that the facilities committee have started dialog about building options. What is our idea, what do we want. The size of our building is adequate but a larger building would be good. Andrews asked what the cost is per square foot currently. Wadsworth stated the current price is \$133 per square foot for rent. Feder was going to meet with a district person to discuss options. Wadsworth stated that we need to determine what the long term vision of the school is and find out if there are district buildings available before next meeting is set.

Wadsworth stated that the Board Holiday Party would be on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Wadsworth's house from 5pm-7pm.

Meeting Adjourned by Jim Harris

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Friday, January 22, 2010 at 3:00pm

Secretary's Signature _____