

GMA Board Meeting Notes – January 2020

Meeting called to Order – 5:35pm

Attendees: Nick, Uriah, Lacy, Andrew, and Kirby

Pledge of Allegiance - All

Introductions - All

Consent Agenda

Motion by Lacy to approve the minutes for January. Second by Nick. All vote to approve.

Office of the Executive Director

Cindy provided an update on the overall student count and noted that GMA is opening the enrollment period for the 2020-2021 school year. Cindy noted that the school has a new nurse, Joy Sterrett. Joy has created classroom care kits and is working on health initiatives throughout the school year. Cindy noted the good work that Jill Zapf is doing within the specials department and that they are looking for a new director for specials. Cindy noted that we have two Title II grants and will be using those funds for professional development, specifically in the Montessori training.

Cindy spoke about the community outreach that is taking place with Hancock Regional Health. This partnership allowed for the funding of fencing around the play area along the building, as well as other play items and picnic tables. Additional sponsor support and donorship came from:

- LML Estate Management – Scott Morris moved the heaviest and most awkward outdoor items from GMA South.
- ASG Automotive – Provided a generous financial donation to future outdoor play space expansion and unlimited tires.
- Danny DiSalvo – Arborist who supplied and installed wood donations for our new Nature Explore inspired play space.
- Jeff Smith Fencing – Generously installed the fencing at cost.
- Abby Strong, Jen Peden, and Jessica Shreve – Provided countless hours organizing endeavors and moving heavy rocks.
- McCordsville Town Council Engineers and Police – Instrumental in assisting with streamlining carline procedures.

Cindy provided details on the Giving Tree. Leaves of recognition will be available for purchase in the following tiers:

- Bronze: \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Silver: \$5,000 - \$9,999
- Gold: \$10,000 - \$14,999

Sponsors donating \$15,000 or greater will have a banner featured in the gymnasium. The banners are 3X5 feet with grommets in the left and right upper hand corners.

Cindy noted that PowerSchool has been purchased as an Enterprise Resource Software Platform to consolidate current software programs spread throughout. This purchase will allow GMA to streamline report and enhance existing services.

Finally, Cindy noted the great support of the PTO. The PTO provided staff with meals prior to the Sweet Meet and Greet on January 8. The PTO sold t-shirts for \$10 with the new GMA logo and t-shirts are still available for purchase. Sizes are youth XS-L and Adult S-XL. Shirts are going quickly so please contact the PTO to order yours today.

Committee Reviews

Facilities Committee – Rob from Lauth

Rob noted that as the weather gets warmer, they will be paving the arm of the road that leads into the entrance and exits of GMA. Currently there is a slight dip in the pavement but that will be evened out. As the weather gets warmer, they will be grading the ground around both entrances and installing the additional landscaping. They are currently looking at options on the best gym floor to use. The humidity within the gym is not at the levels it needs to be at, so they will review options and install a gym floor that aligns with the correct humidity. They need to have the correct flooring align with the humidity in order to get the full manufacturing warranty on the floor. Finally, Rob noted that the entire project of the new building is coming in below budget, a sign of the strong fiscal oversight from the GMA board.

Finance Pillar – Uriah

Uriah noted that all finances are in order, including the remaining invoices coming in for the move. Jack is working with the auditors and that should wrap up at the end of the month. They are also looking into outsourcing options for basic financial reporting and payroll services. They currently have multiple bids out and will be making a decision soon.

Community Outreach Pillar – Lacy

Lacy spoke about the current vendor management taking place regarding technology and utilities for GMA. This process will entail a multi month review of the current services and pricing being offered by existing vendors and then looking at a minimum of three bids from additional vendors and deciding on the best service for the best price. Lacy will continue to update the board on additional information and provide additional reporting on vendor contracts as they come about.

Public Comment

Dr. Brian Fister (GMA parent) – Appreciated the work that the board has done for GMA and asked that the board work with Administration to communicate with parents in the event of a staffing change related to lead teachers.

Danielle Hoyer (GMA parent) – Asked if the board could provide an update to the potential board candidates. Board Secretary, Kirby Durham, provided details around the initial meeting, discussion, exploration, and decision making to add board members.

Ms. Williams (GMA parent) – Noted that her child really enjoys being at GMA and gets disappointed when he has eLearning Days. Cindy noted that it speaks volumes to how great our school is that the child wants to be at school.

Cindy then noted that the GMA website is currently being reviewed and that she will be reaching out to parents through her weekly communication to look for individuals interested in being a part of a committee to discuss changes and enhancements to the website. The goal is to have a robust website that provides additional details regarding the entire GMA experience.

April Krowel (GMA parent) – Asked if it would be possible to live stream GMA board meetings. Lacy noted that a videographer is going to be at the ribbon cutting ceremony on January 31st and that they would have a conversation to discuss options.

Meeting Called to Adjournment – 6:09 pm