

GCCS Board Meeting Notes - 12/18/24

Board Meeting Summary

The board discussed several key issues, including the potential drop in the bond rating, efforts to avoid this, and the financial implications of a new lease proposal. They also addressed the need for capital improvements, such as a \$650,000 cooling system upgrade for the middle school. Enrollment data showed minimal changes, with four students withdrawing and one admitted. The board considered strategies for succession planning, parent representation, and the importance of cybersecurity reviews. They also reviewed proposed bylaws changes, including increasing term limits and financial controls, and planned to seek legal advice on these updates.

Action Items

- Board to review and provide feedback on the proposed bylaw changes.
- Board to have a lawyer review the proposed bylaw updates.
- Executive Director to send the approved meeting minutes to Davies within 2 weeks.
- Executive Director to work on a job description and responsibilities for the parent representative on the board.
- Executive Director to confirm the correct financial policy thresholds to include in the bylaw updates.

Outline

Bond rating, lease negotiation, and potential replacement of trustee.

- Trustee replacement and bond rating concerns are top priorities for the school.

School budget, including lease, alarm, and cooling system updates.

- Discussion of financial updates for middle school, including alarm system and cooling system updates (\$6500 - \$650,000).
- Board to sign new lease, with increased cost impacting school's financial position

School growth projections and financial updates.

- Speaker discusses potential scenarios for school growth, including a 5% increase and a scenario where enrollment shrinks.

- Kristan wants to focus on two financial items for the meeting, including updates on the middle school funding and compliance with security alarm systems.

School safety, leadership succession planning, and strategic planning.

- Discussion on funding for security guards and emergency plans for executive leaders.
- Discussion on succession planning for executive leaders, including emergency plans and long-term strategic planning.

Student enrollment and absences, with reasons for withdrawal.

- Speaker discusses enrollment and withdrawal reasons, including smaller setting, disciplinary issues, and commute difficulties.
- Chronic absenteeism is observed, with some students missing 26 days out of 28, and parents citing various reasons such as disciplinary issues and commute difficulties.

Tracking response times for teacher communications using Class Dojo.

- Speaker discusses KPIs and response times in Class Dojo, mentioning concerns from parents about lack of responses.
- Speaker suggests using Class Dojo's export feature to track response times and provide report cards to parents.

Balancing parent-teacher communication during pandemic.

- Principal emphasizes importance of communication with teachers and parents

Transitioning from elementary to middle school, including a parent night and tour.

- Principal discusses transition from elementary to middle school with parents.

Surprise meeting, fundraising, and logistics.

- Speaker discusses meeting agenda with school staff, seeking input on fundraising ideas.
- Speaker plans logistics for town hall meeting on January 31st, with board meeting to follow.

Posting a fundraising campaign on LinkedIn.

- Speaker discusses posting a message on LinkedIn for a fundraising campaign.
- Speaker wants to know if LinkedIn can be used to post an image or message for the campaign.

School enrollment strategy and working parents' challenges.

- Speaker discusses strategy planning and its impact on enrollment.

Funding options for a new school, including grants and partnerships.

- Research grant opportunities for after-school programs.
- Consider expanding to early childhood education.
- Align strategic planning timeline with community input.

Developing strategy proposals until April, seeking feedback from stakeholders, and planning a collaborative meeting.

- Speaker discusses strategy proposals with stakeholders until April, seeks feedback in meetings.

Supporting students through graduation and beyond.

- Speaker suggests structured affinity groups for parent involvement (e.g., grade level, challenge leaders)
- Discussion on ongoing support for GCS students post-graduation, including tutoring and college semester support

Internationalizing school brand through global events and partnerships.

- Speaker discusses IB program, internationalization, and branding strategies for school.
- Speaker mentions need to comply with Open Meetings laws and post admittance within two weeks after meeting.

Sending meeting minutes and addresses to liaison.

- Speaker discusses sending meeting minutes to committee members.

Board bylaws and virtual meetings.

- Speaker seeks guidance on board bylaws and virtual meetings.

Board member roles, parent representation, and bylaws changes.

- Speaker discusses proposed changes to the bylaws, including parent representation on the board.

Board governance and bylaws with a focus on simplicity and clarity.

- Speaker suggests simplifying bylaws to avoid confusion and ensure board agreement.

Board member roles, responsibilities, and evaluation.

- Committee structure and self-evaluation are discussed (1:00:00)

Updating bylaws regarding record-keeping, investments, and fiscal policies.

- The board should review and update investment policies annually (Kristen)
- The Finance Committee will review fiscal policies annually (Ibrahim)

Implementing cyber security review and KPIs for board evaluation.

- Speaker suggests adding cyber security review to bylaws as a signal of importance (1:04:35)
- Speaker proposes using KPIs to evaluate board performance, such as maintaining good records and having a positive relationship (1:06:00)

Board meeting scheduling and policy changes.

- Committee member suggests organizing board meetings and tasks into a monthly calendar for better accountability.

Creating a new committee with two trustees.

- Speaker suggests creating a smaller board with only two trustees to streamline decision-making.
- Speaker discusses potential committees to create, including a strategic planning committee and a philanthropy committee.