



Savannah Arts Academy School Council

Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2016

I. Call to order

Julie Allen called to order the regular meeting of the School Council at 8:05am on September 28, 2016

II. Roll call

The following Council Members were present: Julie Allen, Anna Bliss, Gif Lockley, Wendy Marshall, Peter Muller, Michael Nestor, Ned Rinalducci, Tony Royek, Dan Snope, Jennifer Vacala, Lisa Wilkes, and Amber Ylisto. Guests in attendance included: Anna Belue, Brandon Tucker and Ardis Wood.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items this month; May 2015 minutes were approved electronically last spring.

IV. Open issues

a) Council Membership:

- i.** Julie welcomed our 3 new council members: parent members Wendy Marshall and Lisa Wilkes and teacher member Michael Nestor. Council members and guests introduced themselves and Council rosters were distributed.
- ii.** The council elected the following Officers to serve for the 2016-2017 school year: Chair – Julie Allen, Vice Chair – Anna Bliss, Secretary – Lisa Wilkes, Parliamentarian – Peter Muller

b) Facilities

- i.** Lifebridge Church: This will be the church's final year (ending May 31, 2017) in the building and they have begun turning over the storage closets for school use. Hours have been scaled back and no longer includes evening activities. A copy of MoU was provided to Council members.

- ii. ESPLOST 2: Roof work commenced this summer and is scheduled to be completed in December, pending weather and other conditions. Window replacement is in the design phase and we hope for work to begin next spring. Each individual window needs to be laser measured. The east and west sides of the building will be completed with E2 funding. The north and south sides, as well as the courtyard, will be funded under E3 if it passes. The recent issues with the auditorium are not related to the roof repairs.
 - iii. ESPLOST 3: The School Board approved the following projects at the July board meeting: replacement of the cafeteria building with a 2 story building for cafeteria and classroom use (funded as an addition), interior renovations, window replacement, HVAC system, parking lot and fence. In addition, the district established technology and security goals that will apply to all schools including Savannah Arts. A copy of the PowerPoint slides from the July board meeting was provided to Council members.
- c) School Safety: Dr. Belue explained the new safety protocols. Each school now has a portable metal detector and wands. In addition to the portable detector, the district mandates 3 weekly random checks. The school recently had a drug check. All perimeter doors are locked during the school day; the custodians check the doors every hour. Dr. Belue reminded us that prescription drugs need to go to the school nurse.

The school is making preparations for an active shooter drill. In November teachers will be trained on procedures (where to run, how to hide, how to fight) and in December there will be a school-wide drill.

d) Admissions Process

- i. Academic Criteria: We will be recommending that SAA has the same academic criteria for admission as Garrison's 8th grade class. (Presently Garrison has more rigorous standards than SAA). This does not require a board vote so a resolution isn't necessary, but we may want to send a letter (to Amy Perry) in support of the change.
- ii. Audition Cutoffs: Auditions are ranked but there is no minimum criteria or cutoff for admission. The Council discussed and is fine with the audition process as is. However, there is concern as to whether we have sufficient resources for the increasing number of admitted students each year. We will ask Ms. Hicks for the number of openings in each area vs. the number of admitted students for the 2016 auditions. The Council was also informed of a new music tech program; given that technology changes quickly and that the communications department does not have the computers it needs – we will

want to make sure our tech based programs have plans in place for supporting the programs long term.

V. **New business**

- a) **Hiring Policies:** SAA was unable to post openings for new teacher positions until after the 10th day enrollment numbers. This posed challenges for students in that we did not have enough teachers to cover the classrooms, especially including Spanish. The freshman Spanish class did not get a teacher until the 7th week of school. The Council is requesting data to assess SAA's enrollment numbers on the 1st day of school vs. the 10th day of school for the past 5 years. We will also look at data for other specialty schools with similarly limited enrollment. If there is not much variance, we may recommend a resolution requesting exemption from the 10th day hiring policy. We have received the 10th day data but are still awaiting the 1st day numbers. Julie, Amber, Jennifer and Mr. Snope volunteered to serve on a committee to assess the data once received.
- b) **School Communications:** The district has not reminded parents to update information in Servos and consequently many parents of upper classmen have not been receiving electronic communications. 3 interns will now be doing Intermezzo; the first communication should be going out on September 30.
- c) **Academic Accountability.** AP and EOC data was distributed to Council Members. With GMAS, the freshman class is usually hit the hardest. Economics and biology are our weak areas. SAA has applied to the College Board for the Capstone Project for STEAM (similar to an Associate Degree)
- d) **Community Update:** Ardis Wood updated the Council on the light fixtures and Washington Avenue median improvements done by the garden club. She is also looking to hire an SAA student to help her with some weeding and gardening at the rate of \$10/hour.

VI. **Adjournment**

Julie Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:22 am.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Allen

Minutes approved by electronic vote October 19, 2016