

Members Present: K. Denzer, N. Donnay, A. Galati, R. Hajlo, D. Keyes, A. Melendres, S. Mueller, K. Pleticha, D. Thompson

Members Absent:

Board Advisor Present: J. Gutierrez, K. Gutierrez

Call to Order

R. Hajlo called the board meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Open Forum

There were 7 speakers (Christoph Brown, Lynn Hoffman, Alison Sachs, Abby Lee, Matt Logan, Alyse Moelter, Nicole Lewis) at the Open Forum.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda includes an updated board calendar, the board minutes from the January 18 board meeting, and the Executive Director's report. Also note that St. Croix Prep recently hosted Leadership in the Valley participants.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: K. Pleticha
Second: A. Galati
Approved: All

2022-2023 School Calendar – J. Gutierrez

Stillwater School District just recently approved their 2022-2023 school calendar. Of items to note, first day of school is August 29, 2022, the last day of school is June 7, 2023 and the winter break has been extended.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar as presented: A. Galati
Second: S. Mueller
Approved: All

2023-2024 Open Enrollment Dates – J. Gutierrez

Establish Open Enrollment Period for the 2023-2024 school year. These normally coincide with the first day of the 2022-2023 school year (August 29, 2022) and one week after the return to classes in January – in this case, January 11, 2023.

Motion to approve the 2023-2024 open enrollment dates of August 29, 2022 through January 11, 2023: A. Galati
Second: S. Mueller
Approved: All

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Report – J. Gutierrez

Minnesota statute 124D.78 states that a school district in which there are 10 or more American Indian students enrolled, the school must establish an American Indian Parent

Advisory Committee (AIPAC) with the purpose of ensuring American Indian students are receiving culturally relevant and equitable educational opportunities. Lonnelle Campbell, St. Croix Prep parent, serves as the Chair this committee. The committee met to assess and evaluate current services to American Indian students and families and issued a vote of concurrence on February 3, 2022.

Motion to approve the AIPAC report and its submission to MDE: A. Melendres
Second: S. Mueller
Approved: All

Charting the Course Update - Susan Peterson

It was determined this year we would transition our annual Gala fundraiser to a week long online fundraising event called Charting the Course. It will consist primarily of an online silent auction with over 100 auction items launching on Friday, February 18 going through Saturday, February 26. In addition, there will be a Penny Wars between the grades that will incentivize students to bring in as many coins and dollars to earn a pizza party. Third, we are selling make-a-mascot kits, similar to the build-a-bear concept and selling at a fixed price per kit. Finally, our biggest push and efforts will go toward the Fund-a-Need to build Discovery Trail, a 1.7 mile loop around our campus with an outdoor classroom. We are encouraging and asking everyone to support this fundraiser.

Adjustment to Sub Rates - K. Gutierrez

Our sub pool has been very low and has caused further challenges to our staff. In addition, the sub pool we do have is opting to go to neighboring districts because their daily pay is higher than ours. For example, Hudson pays \$200/day and Stillwater pays \$175/day. We are proposing an increase from \$125/daily rate to \$175 to match the rate at Stillwater. There will be a \$10K impact to our budget this year. In addition, we are proposing an increase of \$50/day (long term sub is considered a position for 6+ consecutive weeks). This will be \$0 impact to the budget this year. Finally, we would like to increase the building sub rate to \$27.50/hour. This will be a \$14K impact to the budget this year and a \$34K impact next year.

These increases have been met with positive feedback. Additional sub help will ease the additional workload on our teachers and staff.

Motion to approve the proposed sub rate increases as presented: K. Denzer
Second: A. Galati
Approved: All

Mask Mandate Discussion & Potential for Change

After our last board meeting, there has been a 20% absence rate among students and staff. The week before last there were 55 COVID cases, this week there are 4. We are seeing a more normalized student absence rate now, staff absence rate is still a little high and we are using internal coverage to fill gaps.

The COVID Response Team met on Friday, February 11 to discuss options. The committee brought three different proposals. There was discussion.

Motion brought forward by K. Denzer: Last day of the mask mandate for K-12 and for contact tracing is Friday, February 18. Positive COVID cases will have to isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for days 6-10.

Second: S. Mueller

Approved: Vote 5-4

Roll call – Yes: K. Denzer, D. Keyes, S. Mueller, R. Hajlo, A. Melendres

No: K. Pleticha, N. Donnay, A. Galati, D. Thompson

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm: S. Mueller

Second: K. Pleticha

Approved: All

Submitted by S. Peterson, St. Croix Preparatory Academy