

GreenMount Board of Trustees Minutes
March 19, 2020

Board members present remotely: Angelo Otterbein, Shannon Snow, John Abell, Tracy Pietrzak, Lisa Folda, Kelley Gludt, Matthew Hankins, Steve Klepper, Emily Levenson, Katie Morris, Colm O'Comartun, Catherine Stokes

Others present: Liz Dover

The meeting started with a discussion of how we and our families are coping with the changes due to COVID-19, especially with the transition to remote based learning.

Minutes: *Action* - The February minutes were approved without corrections.

Governance Committee - 2020 Board Slate Review: Shannow Snow & Tracy Pietrzak
We discussed a board slate of six potential new board members from a variety of backgrounds. They are all current parents with children of various ages currently enrolled at GMS. *Action* - The board approved the slate to be presented for a vote at the All-Family Meeting in May.

Admissions and Development Reports: Liz Dover

Development report - The Fund for GreenMount is in a similar place this year compared to last year. Our goal is \$80,000 and the current collected total is \$60,000 with \$20,000 more in pledges. It is unclear if COVID-19 will affect the fulfillment of these pledges. Given the current situation, the development team is holding off on asking for additional contributions right now. They are considering changing the spring event to an online auction although there is a concern as many of the donated items are from restaurants.

Admissions - There are 108 students currently enrolled for next year, although we may increase the number of students in 5th grade to have a more equitable gender balance. Liz plans to look more closely at kindergarten admissions as the acceptance rate is lower than we would like it to be. She may ask the climate committee to contact families that were offered admission but did not accept. One factor in acceptance appeared to be financial aid from private schools, including one school which offered large amounts of financial aid that was guaranteed through high school. Angelo mentioned that the decrease in attrition appeared to have improved our overall enrollment. There was a discussion about the concern with rising tuition and the need to look at alternative funding sources.

Head of School Report and COVID-19 Updates/Discussion: Liz reflected on the start of remote learning. She spent time listening to teachers' concerns about the transition. Ms Fani and Ms Meg put a lot of work into helping the other teachers deal with this technology. Liz attended several seminars and virtual meetings about remote learning with other heads of schools.

Liz was able to join in on many classes and discussed how the teachers are making connections with their students and helping them get comfortable with this new format. She discussed the need to start planning long term as we may not return to school soon and she would rather start thinking about this now. Liz proposed to continue distance learning platform until at least spring break, then reassess. She would like to get feedback from families as well as consider how this format can be exhausting for

teachers. Liz is concerned about the social and emotional development of the students and is looking for ways to help them, as well as families, connect. She may involve class parents in this process and is problem solving various opportunities such as buddy activities online and informal checks in with the board. Liz is also thinking about the budget, including trying to figure out how to continue to pay ECHOES staff as well as the loss of not collecting CO-OP hours. Liz discussed the many, many things she is thinking about, such as what happens if she or a teacher gets sick, hiring, and the expectations of the Maryland Board of Education, etc and noted that AIMS has been really supportive. She is also thinking about how we document what we are doing to potentially help with future events. Angelo discussed Liz's tremendous leadership and the board desire to help. Liz encouraged us to also extend our support to administrative staff and teachers. Several board members offered help and support.