

GreenMount Board of Trustees Minutes

February 17, 2021

Board members present: Shannon Snow, John Abell, Tracy Pietrzak, Suzanne Brockman, Doug Lent, Jennifer Malloy, Brian Mitchell, Amy Scott

Board members present remotely: Natalie Pope, Emily Levenson, Megan Roth, Catherine Stokes

Others present: Liz Dover, Jen Seletzky, Jon Kucskar

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

Admissions Report: Liz reported that we received 43 applications, offered 25 contracts today and have 3 candidates in our wait pool. We have 5 current students who are considering other schools and they were given an extension to return contracts by tomorrow. We are having an accepted family gathering next week and they have 2 weeks to return the contracts. Next month we will have more details about enrolled students, although admissions has become a year round process. There are 12 more applications in progress. We discussed ideas to welcome new families such as board members contacting them directly or a google form for parents to indicate any questions or desire to be contacted by a member of the school.

Kiefer Fund Report: Doug reviewed our upcoming fundraising plans. The Kiefer Fund will match any donations to the scholarship fund up to \$25,000. We initially asked for donations on Giving Tuesday. It was our first Giving Tuesday campaign and we raised around \$3500. We will be emailing an ask next week as part of our DEIJ initiative. One generous board member stepped up and donated \$2500, which is a great start. Shannon asked the remaining board members to also donate to this worthy cause.

The grants team is in the process of applying for a grant for lighting and improvements to the grounds. They are also getting information on other grants including hiring, retention and development. The event committee met and reported our previous in-person events and the online spring auction brought in similar amounts of money, so they decided to do both. There will be an outdoor field day event the day before Mother's Day, and the online auction will be in the spring. Liz thanked Doug and another parent, Jessica B., for all their help while she is in the process of hiring a development director.

Strategic Plan Year 1 Check-In: Jon Kucskar, a current parent, discussed progress on the strategic plan. We focused on two areas of the plan for board input during the meeting.

Community and Parent Engagement - Why is GMS focused on community engagement? We discussed how CO-OP is an important part of this topic but this could also relate to the internships and community day. What do we mean by community? There is a desire to increase service work; this could be integrated as a part of CO-OP. Do we see this as part of serving the local community? What is our definition of local community? Do we want to leverage local connections to increase community within the school? These are all worthy goals but do they need to be a focus in the strategic plan? What are we trying to achieve? As we continued to discuss the topic, it seemed to make the most sense to include community engagement as part of other areas of the strategic plan such as CO-OP and academics.

GreenMount Teaching and Learning - Liana is in the process of working on our coordinated scope and sequence for K-8 learning. She asked for the board's thoughts on our philosophy and mission as we work to apply it to teaching and learning decisions. We recognized that we should include information from the DEIJ audit in this process. We discussed different thoughts about the language of the mission statement, such as the word creative and what that means to us vs prospective families. Many parents ask questions about our rigor during the admissions process - does our mission and philosophy accurately reflect our teaching? We identified various aspects of the school's philosophy that are important to us and our children.

Head of School Report: The task force met with Dr Wise and is waiting for the synthesis of the focus groups. We have added additional groups for past families, alumni, admin, faculty and parents of students who identify as LGBTQIA. Those groups should be finished by the end of March. There has been less input from families of color; the task force will be asking families directly if they would like to participate to get more perspective. Dr. Wise has already done some professional development for faculty and staff including numerous 1:1 conversations. It was really great to hear the students' perspective during this process.

Liz is in the process of hiring for development and is thinking about adding marketing to the admissions position. A current teacher let her know about a likely transition for next year so Liz might be posting a position soon. She is excited to announce the 8th grade will be going on their immersion trip to the Florida Keys. She is looking into starting camping trips, field trips and bringing parents on campus for the Theme Event. COVID task force will meet next week to discuss the process of "off-ramping" COVID restrictions.

The meeting ended with a planned Executive Session.