Gray Collegiate Academy

Board Meeting

May 22, 2017

1. Welcome: Call to order at 2:10 pm by Teresa Brazell. Members in attendance are Teresa Brazell, Jason Fields, Kim Seawell, Brett Marlowe, and Elizabeth “Libbi” Sheridan. Staff members in attendance are Todd Helms, Dr. Newsome, and Adam Holmes. Pinnacle employees in attendance are Mike Bobby, Mike D’Angelo, and Traci Bryant-Riches. Mike Miller of San Cap CPA is attending via WebEx.
2. Public Notice: Posted.
3. Public Input: None
4. Mission Statement: Read by Teresa Brazell
5. Adoption of Agenda: Brett Marlow made a motion to accept the agenda as posted. Jason Fields seconded the motion and all were in favor.
6. Approval of the Minutes Kim made a motion to accept the minutes with that adjustment and Libbi Sheridan seconded it. All were in favor.
7. Recognition: Jason Fields recognized Teresa Brazell for recommending GCA to his family. He stated that the school had been an excellent choice for his sons and he was most appreciative.
8. Financial Report: Mike Miller reported that an audit will take place next week and the auditors may ask to speak to any board members. He reported that revenue was $18,000 under budget for April but our year to date revenue is $30,000 over budget. He anticipates the school’s revenue will run under budget for the remainder of the school year. This is due to our enrollment being below the budgeted forecast. Our efforts to control cost remain effective and our expenses for April were $36,000 below budget. Our year to date cumulative profit is $197,000 compared to a budgeted profit of $79,000. We have 73 days of cash on hand with an operating cash balance of $698,000 as of May 15, 2017. In the month of June, we will pay bonuses to our staff. Mike D’angelo asked how it was possible to be in such solid financial condition and be able to pay bonuses with enrollment down by greater than fifty students from projected. Mike Miller reported that the decrease in expenditures and strict management of funds allowed this and the board expressed appreciation to Mike Miller for his stewardship.
9. Principal’s Report: Dr. Newsome discussed EOC testing that was ongoing. Biology increased the passing rate from 73% in 2016 to 90% in 2017. English I increased from 74% in 2016 to 85% in 2017. We do not yet have results from Algebra I or US History. The trial dress code is going very well and Dr. Newsome will bring a formal recommendation to the board for the 2017-2018 school year next month. He reminded the Board members that graduation is Wednesday, May 31st at the Koger Center and the Board will sit on stage. The senior picnic was held last week and Thursday was the last day for seniors. A pizza party was held for peer tutors to thank them for their outstanding work this year. The 1st annual academic banquet was held last week and was well attended. The SEARS program is going well. This program provides opportunity for students to recover time from excessive absences. Our next parent forum is Tuesday, May 23rd.
10. Athletic Report: Our first year competing in the SCHSLhas ended. We had 36 all-region players, 3 region championships, 3 coaches of the year, 3 region players of the year, 1 class 2A player of the year, and 1 upper state championship appearance. In addition, every team made the region play-offs and placed either first or second. Our athletic banquet will be held tomorrow night at Brooklyn Baptist Convention Center. The third annual golf tournament will be held Thursday at Golden Hills Country Club. Coach Holmes noted the need for more participation as only two parents and two students are competing with all other teams from school staff and Pinnacle. The money raised will support the new weight room facility. Coach Holmes thanked Ms. Brazell for approving the purchase of $15,000 of weight equipment. It will be set up in the gym during the summer and can be moved in the Fall. Mike Bobby and Coach Holmes met with the BSN representative to address issues with the ordering process. Coach Holmes reported that four new coaches have been hired. They are Kevin Heise (Boys’ Soccer), Emily Heise (Girls’ Soccer), David Golden (Girls’ Basketball) and Ali Cline (Competitive Cheer). They were introduced at a press conference that was covered by local TV stations and Newspapers. A final college signing is planned for tomorrow at noon in the gym. GCA had 46% of senior student athletes offered scholarships to play collegiate sports. The national average is 3%.
11. Operations Report: Todd Helms stated that new enrollment for 2017-18 is currently 85 students. There are 31 enrollments in progress and there is a plan in place to personally reach out to current students who have not yet enrolled. Eighth grade students from 13 school districts received recruitment letters. Libbi Sheridan reported that teachers in Lexington School District One have commented that the students are talking with each other in class about the letters they received from GCA.
12. Accountability Report: The GCA response to the SCPCSD School Performance Status Report was sent on May 8, 2017. We are waiting on a response and expect to hear by mid-June. The EOC was their biggest concern and as we are performing well this year, there should be no issue.
13. Board Retreat: Several Board members attended training on May 2 at the SCPCSD office. The board members feel the training was important and the board should plan a retreat to discuss the education in detail. The Board invited Dr. Newsome to join them on June 22 after the next board meeting for this purpose. The retreat will be conducted at the school from 5 – 9 pm on June 22.
14. Executive Session: Jason Fields made a motion to go into executive session at 3:08 pm to discuss personnel matters and it was seconded by Kim Seawell. All were in favor. Libbi Sheridan made a motion at 3:55 pm to come out of executive session and Jason Fields seconded the motion. All were in favor.
15. Adjournment: The next Board Meeting will be on June 22, 2017 at 2:00 pm. A motion was made by Jason Fields to adjourn and was seconded by Kim Seawell at 4:00 pm. All were in favor.