

GOODWIN COLLEGE MAGNET SCHOOLS, INC.

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
4:30 p.m., April 23, 2018
Goodwin College, 6th Floor Board Room

Members present- Todd Andrews, Eddie Meyer, Jackie Jacoby, Megan Mehr (left the meeting at 5:30), Mark Scheinberg, and Merilee Dejohn (joined the meeting at 4:39)

Members absent- none

Staff Present- Lynn Guerriero, Gayle Mulligan

Guests- Jasdeep Singh, Principal of Riverside Magnet School and Tara Amatrudo, Principal of Connecticut River Academy

Representing the public- none

1. Call to Order

- Jackie Jacoby called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

2. Public Comment

- None

3. Consent Agenda

3a. Approval of GCMS Board Special Meeting Minutes of February 28th, 2018

- Eddie Meyer motioned to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 GCMS Board Special Meeting. Megan Mehr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

Marilee Dejohn joined the meeting at 4:39pm

4. Special Reports

• Principals reports on budget initiatives

- Tara Amatrudo spoke about new vision for CTRA to be top early college STEM magnet school in district and state. Plan to expand on what is working and grow the early college program as well as create a career pathway for students.
 - Critical need for focus on math (juniors below proficiency levels) – revising curriculum
 - Literacy framework shift to increase proficiency
 - Focus on school wide expectations and high quality instruction to support our at risk scholars.
 - Budget drivers include; NEASC accreditation (we are only 1 of 4 magnets in State to be accredited), new visionary program staffing, PD, and more students taking college courses.

- Jasdeep Singh shared that we have been noted as a School of Distinction due to our high risk/need students bump in state standard scores.
 - Curriculum had not been vertically aligned, therefore, primary focus on attaining that alignment across grades. Team collaboration. Eureka math pk-gr5 can extend to gr 12, foundations thru gr 3, new social/emotional program. Drastic Improvements seen in our Kindergarten students.
 - School hours changing next year providing increased instructional time
 - Reading intervention –adding 2nd reading instructor. Goal to decrease spec. ed. 50 students currently identified. Adding EL teacher, instrumental program
 - Adding dedicated person to help improve attendance which continues to be problematic
 - Looking at increasing enrollment in studio afterschool program and expanding to meet needs of our w/need student population
- **Staff reports on budget of magnet schools**
- Lynn Guerriero summarized the 2018-19 Budgets for RMS and CTRA. The state has capped our seats at both schools after this year. Overall enrollment will be increasing by a total of 50 seats between CTRA and RMS. We are anticipating a SDE cut to the operating grant.
- Expenses are up for this year primarily due to contracted salary increases, and benefit cost. There are also staff increases primarily for new programs being introduced at each school. RMS is adding 5th grade and CTRA is rolling out the manufacturing program as well as courses to increase proficiency in math and literacy at CTRA.

Megan Mehr left the meeting at 5:35 pm

- Todd Andrews gave an overview of budget options for consideration. Discussion around increasing local tuition to towns, and exactly how much that should be. Concern is that Goodwin has seen cuts to our operating grant from the State over the past years and we have not increased local tuition to keep in line with those state funding cuts. Our schools continue to cut their budgets to account for lost revenue even though we are still in growth mode at both schools. The discussion and action on resolutions was suspended in order to gather and forward additional information to the board to support resolution 18-01 and 18-02 and that an email vote would be requested from the board.

5. Business Requiring Action

5a. Resolution GCMS 18-01- Connecticut River Academy SY 17-18 Budget Approval

5b. Resolution GCMS 18-02- Riverside Magnet School SY 17-18 Budget Approval

- Mark Scheinberg made a motion to table Resolution 18-01 and 18-02 pending further data and information to be forwarded via email for action on these two resolutions. Todd Andrews seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

5c. Resolution GCMS 18-03 – LEARN contract authorization

- Todd Andrews presented a new learn contract for a period of 5 years with renewal options. The new contract will be based on services provided by contract and will be made part of the annual budget approval process.
- Marilee Dejohn made a motion to approve Resolution 18-03, Eddie Meyer seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

6. Adjournment

- Todd Andrews made a motion to recess the meeting at 6:56 pm. Mark Scheinberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

7. Reconvening of Special Meeting

- Email was sent on 4/26/18 at 9:22 am to all GCMS board members with further additional information to support resolution 18-01 and 18-02 for action. Responses from all members were rec'd by 4/26/18 with the last response at 7:31 pm. The votes were tallied on 4/27/18 at 2:39 pm and are summarized as follows; Resolutions 18-01 passed unanimously (6-0) and 18-02 passed unanimously (6-0). Copies of email correspondence and summary of votes are attached.