

Hawthorn Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2017       5:30 p.m.

1901 N. Kingshighway Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63113

Board Minutes

**Board members present:** Kathryn Love (Chair)

 Edes Gilbert (by phone), Nikki Doughty

Jessica Portis, Jason Hall, Tim Rowbottom**Staff:** Mary Stillman, Robyn Wiens, Dalayna Jackson

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Kathryn Love

Jason Hall moved to approve the **consent agenda**, Tim Rowbottom seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Mary Stillman presented the **Executive Director’s report**. Interviews with our current 8th grade students about their intent to return shows that approximately 2/3 plan to attend Hawthorn for high school. We are slightly ahead of last year in enrollment for 6th and 7th grades.

With Riverview Gardens having regained accreditation, the board has previously voted to continue to enroll RG students through the remainder of this school year. The question remains whether to continue to enroll them through middle school. Jason Hall moved that the board adopt an enrollment policy to continue to enroll current Hawthorn students who reside in the Riverview Gardens School District for the duration of their middle school years. Mr. Rowbottom seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Hawthorn’s current enrollment policy is to accept new students in 6th, 7th and 9th grades. The Board discussed amending that policy to allow students who left Hawthorn in good standing (in academic and discipline records) to re-enroll at Hawthorn in 8th or 10th grade. We will continue to explore this.

Ms. Stillman provided an update on high school planning. The administration has begun to develop a detailed daily schedule and a leadership team plan. We have applied to be Missouri’s first site for the Microsoft TEALS computer science program. Dr. Wiens is beginning the hiring process for new faculty.

As we plan the high school curriculum, we have revisited the original plan, set out in the charter, to require 3 credits of PE. Ms. Gilbert moved that the high school PE credit requirement be amended from 3 to 1. Ms. Portis seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

As we grow and we wish to provide special opportunities for our students, we see a need to lease or purchase a small bus. Ms. Doughty suggested that the Variety Club might be a source for this.

The Cool Women/Hot Jobs career day is March 10.

Dr. Wiens gave the **Principal’s report**.

Dr. Wiens reviewed enrollment, attendance and student discipline data. Attendance rate remains relatively stable at just above 93%. Suspensions have increases slightly over last year, reflecting a larger student body and a greater use of behavior plans. We have added more restorative practices and more parent meetings to our student discipline. We have increased the number of students we are assessing for IEPs.

Next week, sixth graders will present their PBL final projects and 7th grade will present WE Schools projects. Advisories decorated classroom doors in HBCU themes for Black History month.

Dr. Wiens revieeds fall to winter NWEA comparisons. We will look at NWEA results in terms of percentiles rather than grade level in the future to give a better indication of where students will likely land on the MAP tests. Student growth from fall to winter in reading: 28% scored in 60th percentile in reading in the fall and that increased to 31% in the winter. We reduced the number of students in the lower percentiles. Math testing showed some student movement, but we had anticipated more. In science, just over half of the students met or exceeded their growth goal. We are putting the following interventions in place to address the information gathered from the NWEA results:

* Holding Lexia Breakfast Club for students who are at 3rd grade or below in reading.
* Establishing a Saturday Math Academy for some of our more advanced math students to move them toward mastery.
* Hiring a math paraprofessional.
* Engaging more volunteer tutors working with individual students or in small groups.
* Retaining an outside education consultant to review our math curriculum and assessment.

We have begun posting positions for 2017-18 and held an info session for interested candidates that was well attended.

Our students have had several special opportunities to attend live performances, concerts, summer camp scholarship and guest speakers.

Ms. Portis gave the October financial report on behalf of the **Budget and Finance Committee**. She reviewed YTD revenues and expenses noting the adjustment for enrollment. We are ahead of budget on fundraising. We will begin to draft the FY18 budget.

Mr.Rowbottom for the **Building and Grounds Committee** gave the status report on the planning and design process for renovation to prepare for the high school. The Foundation is working with Tarlton to finalize the scope and budget. Work is scheduled to begin in March and conclude by early July.

Edes Gilbert and Kathryn Love reported for the **Governance Committee** about board training opportunities and the importance of continuing to build the board.

Mary Stillman reported on behalf of the Foundation on the launch of a $1.5M capital campaign. Megan Clinton, a member of the Foundation Board, is chairing that campaign.

Due to conflicts, the Board decided to cancel the March Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Love at 7:21 p.m.