

Great Oaks Academy Emergency Board Meeting
7/22/2020
2:00pm

Call to Order: 2:03

Roll Call: Heith Wetzler, Paul McGlynn, Eileen Halligan, Briana Smith, Wendy Swanson-Choi

No conflicts of interest

Public comment: Wendy thanks the board, and particularly Paul, for being on top of the ready to open items NEO requires. His proactive, flexible efforts have been excellent especially in this strange time of Covid.

Paul:

Three options for the year: A) Go forward with the current plan. Pro: no changes to make, no new hires, we have a budget set for 72 (we have 66 enrolled) and we're moving toward that number, we have wait lists so we have a buffer if we lose people. Cons: we will lose our waitlisters, if we don't have our 72 number, we will have a budget shortfall. B) Take waitlisted first and second graders, open a new 1st grade class. If we do that, assuming all the first and second grade waitlisted still want in, we would have a 78 enrollment. We will have about a \$20,000 deficit at the end of the year. Pro: fewer combined classes, less hassle with curriculum. Keep our waitlist. C) Do a kinder, a K1, a 2 and a 3-4 class. Immediately would bring us to an 84 enrollment assuming that our waitlist students all take a seat. Highest financial advantage, greater kindergarten base going into next year. No budget shortfall. Cons: figure out curriculum for the K1 class. Could conceivably fill 92 seats.

Discussion:

What happens to the excess kindergartners next year? We will push to open a second first grade class next year to accommodate them.

Right now we're at a \$36,000 deficit. We need 6 more students in grades 3 and 4. If we go with scenario B, we will be at a \$20,000 deficit and need 4 students who can go into grades 1-4.

Wendy - do you have space for another kindergarten? Possibly. Originally the lessor was only interested in leasing us the four classrooms but they have recently said they might be interested in allowing us to use more space.

Wendy - typically speaking you don't want a waiting list, you want to get as many students in the door as possible. It offers some cushion but not what it looks like now. The more you can do with families now, the more sticky your registration will be, so lots of engagement with families is important. A school is much healthier financially with 70-80 enrollment rather than 60.

Several pros and cons were discussed regarding the various options and the ways in which we can communicate to parents.

Briana Smith moves to expand the school to four classrooms, a kindergarten, a K1 split, a second grade and a 3-4 split. Eileen Halligan seconds. Motion passes.

Paul, Briana and Heith will work on messaging and make an announcement on Monday.

Eileen Halligan moves to adjourn. Briana Smith seconds. Motion passes.