

School of Technology and Arts I  
Steering Committee Minutes  
March 3rd, 2020

Officers:

President: Doris Faucheux

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Kirsten Gabriel

Treasurer: Kerrie Moore

Principal: Ben Burns

Fundraising: Erika Cedergren and \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers: Maria Henry and Mike Lawrence

Yearbook: Leah Lachman and Ashley Patros-Kader

District Wide Parent Rep: Dawn Wacek

Volunteer Coordinator: Clarissa Grover

Community Building: Judson Steinback and \_\_\_\_\_

Technology: *Renee Stowell (new!!)*

**1. February Minutes:**

- a. Doris reviewed the February minutes. Dawn motioned to approve the minutes; Kirsten seconded. Motion was approved.

**2. Principal Report:**

- a. *Update on staffing and 4K:*
  - i. SOTA I is up 20 students and we get to keep all 7 staff members for next year - official as of this morning. Not sure how we'll allocate staffing - that's still to be determined, but should be determined by the end of the month. Had we not added 4k, we may have lost a staff member. The district has been very supportive of our efforts to grow despite the projected decrease in students across the district. The year after next, we'll be graduating a class of 31. Right now, we have 8 kids enrolled in 4k - we'd like to keep the possibilities open in terms of additional enrollees (approximately a quarter of our students).
- b. *Safety and Security:*
  - i. Monday, Feb. 17 was a no-school staff development day. We had a required crisis prevention and intervention day per the district. We had an unknown person enter the school who interacted with a few of our staff but was behaving strangely. While it's not illegal to behave strangely, we engaged local law enforcement to assist us and make sure

our school is safe. We started a Building Safety Team last year, and this fall we did safety training to better prepare ourselves. This group has some recommendations to improve safety at our school, as does Mr. Burns. These changes include:

1. During staff development days, we will keep the front door locked. Staff can scan in and guests can check in via the front desk. Effective immediately.
  2. Outside doors will open at 7:35am-8:05am – a tightened window as compared to what it has been.
  3. We have a staff member assigned to be outside at 7:30am.
- ii. The challenge in the morning: we have a lot of parents who arrive after the 8am bell. If we hit lock on the door at 8am, we'd have a lot of folks coming through the office. If we had a second bell at 8:10am, we'd still have enough instructional time to meet DPI standards. Another possibility is that we could allow students up at 7:50am, but that causes a challenge for teachers whose contract time starts at 7:35am. Discussion ensued, and the consensus seemed to be that a second bell at 8:10am would be useful. Mr. Hamby generally hangs out by the front doors voluntarily between 8 and 8:10. Mr. Burns will look into having a staff member at the entrance door from 8-8:10. Another challenge is that we are the only school in the district when the doors are wide open when school is in session. (i.e. Hamilton dismisses at 2:48pm, SOTA dismisses at 3:15pm M, T, Th, F. and SOTA dismisses at 11:45am on Wednesday, Hamilton dismisses at 2:48pm.) We also discussed a host of safety options that could be built into the expansion plan.
- c. *Food for Conferences*: Clarissa will be sending an email out about this. Conference meals need to be provided for 40 people on Monday, March 9th.

### **3. Teacher Report**

- a. *Thank you for the KVR (Kickapoo Valley Reserve) bus!*
- b. *5<sup>th</sup> Grade student-sponsored/led Teacher Appreciation Luncheon*:
  - i. Will take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. Terri will be sending dates out regarding 4/5 dates and school events.
  - iii. We need an additional 3-4 volunteers for the Earth Day-themed Teacher Appreciation Luncheon to help Scott T. (another volunteer and someone involved in SOTA's founding) make the dinner happen (i.e. cutting food, supervising kids, etc.)
- c. *Artist in Residence (AIR)*:
  - i. Mrs. Henry applied for an LPEF grants (\$500 total for a \$600 project). If

the SSC would be willing to kick in \$100, that would be great! Mr. Burns offered to kick in \$100 through building funds.

*d. Lego League:*

- i. Mike Lawrence wrote a grant to fund two robots for Lego League; he anticipates the grant will be funded, though he'll know whether or not that comes through in the next few weeks.

**4. Fundraising**

*a. Bike Rodeo Update:*

- i. Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, a bit earlier than normal. Given the time constraints of the volunteers, we may consider purchasing food this year and perhaps soliciting less donations.
- ii. Mike obtained a backwards bike, and we'll be using it as a fundraiser for Lego League.

*b. Parents Night Out:*

- i. Successful! Wingspan was a hit. We did less – it was more relaxed than in previous years though we made about the same amount as last year.

*c. Skate-a-thon Fundraiser:*

- i. Scheduled for March 13. No pie in the face fundraiser; will be doing a "Duct Tape Doris to the Wall" fundraiser instead. The fundraiser will involve investigation in the classes to determine how much duct tape is necessary, etc. Every student will have the ability to generate a hypothesis. Three SSC members are working on marketing this event, setting up online fundraising options for families, and other details. Teachers have offered to collect money for the event as well, noting how much was pledged and collected.

**5. Vacancies**

- a. Thank you to Renee Stowell for stepping up as our Technology rep! We're still looking for VP, Fundraising, and Community Building.

**6. Rep. Reports**

*a. District Parent Report:*

- i. A new Rights and Responsibilities draft will be going out. Changes have been made (including changes to the dress code, re-worked verbiage on not having your skin touching the furniture). The goal is to make the document more usable; kids will get a document that articulates expectations and contains links to policies when they start each academic year. Dawn will be making sure the working draft goes out to everyone.

*b. Superintendent Search:*

- i. We are down to three candidates for the search.

c. *District-Wide Parents Night:*

- i. We'll be hosting the March meeting at SOTA/Hamilton. Part of the agenda for each DWPN includes information about the host school and the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Mr. Burns will focus on Hamilton's SIP and will include some school-wide initiatives, including expansion (the vote will take place the night before the DWPN), student-led Black History Month efforts, and more.

d. *Author Julia Cook Visit:*

- i. There will be a special event on March 12: 5:30pm dinner, 6:00pm presentation with Author Julia, and teachers will be supervising students. All families who attend will receive a free book, funded through a grant through LPF. Please note – all students will have an opportunity to interact with Julia outside of this event as well.

**7. Adjourned.** Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:37pm.