

Fox River Academy Governance Board Retreat Minutes

DRAFT



Thursday August 18, 2022 9-11am

Agenda Item	Action to Be Taken, By Whom	Time
Welcome	<p>Grainne/Sara: purpose of this meeting <i>Grab snacks, chat, say hi to members (make sure everyone can get logged in)</i></p> <p>Meeting called to action at 9:06.</p>	9:00-9:10
SWOT	<p>Go through our SWOT Analysis</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are good at supporting each other. ● Communicating back to parents and updating on what is going on; responding. ● Strong family connections. <p>Unique/Different/What are families/students like about us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family connections ● Parents are connected. ● Multiage based ● Inquiry based and designing curriculum backwards ● Get outside into the environment (Field Day, Field Biologist) ● Flexibility in designing schedules and meeting kids where they are at. ● Sharing students between classrooms. ● Departmentalize and teachers are able to specialize. (Upper grades) <p>Weaknesses & Opportunities:</p> <p>What we want to strengthen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not being understood. ● The ability to offer more choices at the middle school. ● Guidance and mental health of students. ● Logistically (middle school numbers) ● What is the middle school about? More accessible to families. ● More involvement in the parent group in the upper grades. ● More transparency in what is happening in other part of the school. ● Foreign Language <p>In what areas are our competitors better than we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More options for extra curriculars ● More students ● Smaller staff of 5 to be able to do everything. 	9:10-9:40

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better transition to highschool (perceived) <p>What we want to become more efficient at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring program? • More K-8 connections • Whole school communication <p>Threats: What we think could hinder our growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6 moving to middle • unknown: Referendum • STEM • We rely on district support to keep wishing to fund charter schools • Changing in Principals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Will they understand us and who we are? • Are misunderstandings coming up? Is our message clear? <p>Is our target market shrinking?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-4 is not shrinking • 5 is not shrinking • 6-8 is shrinking <p>Target would be middle school.</p> <p>Would it make sense to target the intermediate kids?</p> <p>Would restructuring our school help us retain students? Uncomfortable conversations need to be had in the future to determine. Could we work with other charters?</p> <p>How do we pool community resources to promote transportation and other barriers?</p> <p>Deanna is going to be working on our website.</p>	
<p>Roles for Board + Committees 22/23</p>	<p>Board Changes for 22/23 President/VP/Treasurer/Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't have a VP or President for 2022-2023 • We could do Co-Presidents <p>Do we do a few virtual and in person? November and May in person.</p> <p>Committees for 22/23 Members & Committee Leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment/Retention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take a look on how we can recruit and retain on the board. - Communications - 501c3/Fundraising - Guardians - Others? <p>Push to September Meeting Need to clarify who is on what committee and what the goals are.</p>	<p>9:40-9:50</p>
<p>Just an FYI</p>	<p>Look at finances</p>	<p>9:50-10:10</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not updated (Think about \$19000) <p>Upcoming changes to technology (24-25 school year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chromebook changes coming K-8 is 1:1 right now Fundraising money can go to this We will add an extra dollar to field trips this year to boost that. <p>Enrollment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sitting between 100-103 <p>Plans for Grades 7 & 8 for 23/24 and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> move to September meeting <p>Big purchases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joann - whiteboard table Amanda - a new rug 	
Break	5 minute break	
Goal Setting	<p>What goals do we have as a Board?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enrollment/Retention (54 students in 5-8 to keep middle school) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey students Communication - being more strategic in how we communicate and more inclusive/streamlined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> survey students Environmental Specialist and Fundraising <p>Could we bring someone in every month to help with Field Days? Could we bring in parents?</p> <p>We can use our field trip budget to bring in speakers. We can use the student activity account if it is for the students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we work to meet those goals School CSIP goals-how can the Board support these <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning of Thursday (next week) the staff will be working through these. Fundraising goals/events 22/23 	10:15-11:00
End of Meeting	Grainne adjourned the meeting at 11:00.	11:00 am
Next Meeting	September 12, 2022 5:00pm Virtual	

Mission: The Fox River Academy will foster in its students the passion and curiosity necessary for lifelong learning, and will, through an integrated, multi-age curriculum, increase students' proficiencies in the use of strategic learning processes and higher order thinking skills needed to be stewards of the environment and community.

In attendance: Grainne Meyer, Leanna Miller, Lori Leschisin, Beth Wich, Amanda Voss, Deanna Widman, Sara Leintz, Matt Zimmermann, Jim Birch, Nan Bunnow, Katie Kilsdonk, Joann Kasper, Holly Kronberg, Meghan Gremban