

Gathering Waters Board  
Agenda 1/16/2021 9:30 a.m.

**In Attendance: Jonathan Norris, Gabrielle Schuerman, Emily Turner, Janet Gordon, Eliza Murphy, Elizabeth Hamshaw, Dan Kurz, Holly Gibson**

**Public Attendees: Fiona , Sara N., Sara C. Marcy S. , Theresa**

**Next Meeting: Saturday Jan 30 9:30 -11:30 a.m.**

**I. Reading of Mission- Janet**

The mission of Gathering Waters Chartered Public School is to offer students in the Monadnock region an education that enables them to discover their interests and capabilities; explore the surrounding world; and cultivate a lifelong love of learning, a sense of community responsibility and understanding of environmental sustainability. We carry out this mission by providing a rich and engaging curriculum that integrates the arts, meaningful practical work, outdoor education and service to the larger community.

Our vision is an inclusive school culture of compassion and respect where deep interest in others goes hand in hand with individual growth. The educational environment enables students to develop self-confidence, self-knowledge, intellectual flexibility, and the capacity for creative problem solving that supports ethical action in their local and global communities.

**What in the mission and vision is most meaningful to you? Can you identify one value that you would like to guide our work for the next 9 months?**

Dan: love of outdoor, environmental responsibility for next 9 mos. May be challenging. Value: Inclusion and accessibility.

Theresa: After ensuring security of physical being of children, next culture of inclusion, compassion respect most important. Value: Teamwork/ Community

Janet: Sense of community and personal as well as social responsibility foundation for a healthy experience.

Elizabeth: Community specific to vision parts of healthy community hopeful path for our world. Increasing within school and expand beyond into whole community

Sara N: Compassion and respect both stand out and values

Jonny: Community bigger than just Keene/ Monadnock region. Value: Sacrifice; always more will be asked- won't be easy

Emily: Educating for the future, intellectual flexibility and creative problem solving- for young people and ourselves in this moment as well

Eliza: creative problem solving that supports... as well as inclusion and culture of respect  
Value: Inclusion and accessibility

Marcy: Love and relationship at the heart of all work within board, school, community, beyond

Holly:

Fiona: Self- confidence and self-knowledge, meeting children where they are

Gabrielle: Community, inclusivity Value: Transparency, healthy communication

## **II. Approve Minutes from 1/02/2021 meeting**

Motion: Theresa

Second: Jonny

Vote: Unanimous

## **III. Enrollment and Lottery Update and enrollment policies approval (Sara N)**

- A. Approval of Enrollment process statement Monday Feb 15 @ 5:15 pm @ 165 Winchester St. open meeting. M: Gabrielle S: Theresa V: Unanimous
- B. Approval of process for Academic Acceleration M:Janet S: Gabrielle V: Unanimous
- C. Approval of IEP process M: Theresa S: Dan V: Unanimous
- D. Approval of process for enrollment of Homeschooled students M:Theresa S: Eliza V: Unanimous
- E. Approval of letter for families interested in K M:Jonny S: Janet V: Unanimous

## **IV. Approval of Faculty Hiring Process** direct any dissent/concerns to hiring@gw, asked for flexibility of candidates to receiving any class vs. grade specific and big picture of integrated middle school and HS, what does the compensation package look like?

M:Eliza S:Fiona V:Unanimous

## **V. Approval of Annual Appeal Letter** Responses better with mail in hand than email. Recommended to send email out today to collect mailing addresses. Keep in mind cost of printing, mailing. Start with appeal as email and follow-up with those who give mailing addresses. Could have email then follow-up with different letter that is mailed and offered personal touch with little note. Should ensure donors through email don't also receive follow-up letter request. Email will have option to donate electronically through Stripe potentially PayPal as well. Personal thank you's also to be sent out. Will need to connect with data management system. Coordinators: development and fundraising- any others,

let Holly know they can help. Potentially as soon as we have parents who have students admitted will be enthusiastic to help

M: Gabrielle S: Emily V: Unanimous

- VI. Proposal to appeal to the State BOE to increase class sizes to 20 and add 10th grade? (consider tabling 10th grade discussion until we have more information about facilities and genuine interest)** Is it based on budget and facilities: yes, will help budget but will also add costs. Can we have approval from BOE for K-12 and if possible we will if not possible we won't? BOE is conservative they won't want to approve something that is uncertain. Differentiation of caps for K, Grades, HS based on ratio and needs.

Proposal to table until later meeting when final numbers are more clear. Undertake fact-finding to see if more 10th graders interested than what we currently have on Interest List (Outreach Committee). Also form proposal for 25/grade increase rather than 20 w/ pros and cons (Enrollment). Ask Finance Committee to look at different numbers and options for additional support M: Gabrielle S: Janet V: Unanimous

- VII. Facilities Discussion (Fiona)** Option 1: 98 S. Lincoln and old Keene Middle Option 2: 98 S. Lincoln and KSC Option 3: 98 S Lincoln and old River Valley Need COVID plan for moving forward into next year, how does environmental focus fit into different options Propose moving forward with plans to further investigate S Lincoln as K-5, gather more info re: other spaces for middle and high school M: Gabrielle S: Jonny V: Unanimous

- VIII. Committees-see below-fundraising and dev?**

- IX. Professionalism (Emily)** Tabled

## **Committees:**

**Enrollment:** Sara Norris, Eliza Murphy, Gabrielle Schuerman

**Marketing and Outreach:** Elizabeth Hamshaw (Website and Facebook), Fiona Laurie (Constant Contact), Dan Kurz, Melanie Everard, Marcy Schepker

**Kindergarten/EC:** Eliza Murphy, Marcy Schepker, Sara Norris

**Development and Fundraising:** Holly Gibson, Sara Ciborski

**Finance:** Jonny Norris, Gabrielle Schuerman

**Facilities:** Fiona Laurie, Gabrielle Schuerman, Janet Gordon, Theresa Majoy, Dan Kurz, Marcy Schepker

**HR:** Emily Turner, Janet Gordon, Gabrielle Schuerman

