

Prairie Song Board Meeting

March 1st, 2022

6:00 p.m. CST via Zoom

Board members present: Kelsey Aurand de Razo (president), Madeline Nash (treasurer), Joyce Carnes (fundraising co-chair), Peggy Clement (fundraising co-chair), Lindsay Leckbee (at large)

Others present: Ginger Nolker (head of school)

Minutes prepared by: Kelsey Aurand de Razo

1. Post-spring break schedule

Staff report/recommendations: Recommends that the Board continues the 3-day / week schedule for all students through the end of the school year.

Board Q&A / Discussion

- No cost increase anticipated as 3 hours 3 days week (9 hours total) for elementary is the same amount of on-site time as 4.5 hours 2 days / week (9 hours total) that was the fall 2021 schedule
- Elementary students benefit from increased number of hours for productive work cycles. Head of School noted that time after lunch was not as productive for elementary, so having all morning hours was ideal for most elementary students

MOTION by Madeline to continue the three day per week elementary schedule through the end of the spring semester (9:30 am - 12:30 pm). Joyce seconds. **motion carries**

2. Student enrollment

Staff report/recommendations: 2 potential families (3 students total) declined due to other circumstances. No active recruiting for the current academic year. Head of School is checking with one family who previously expressed interest but is not currently on the waitlist.

3. 2022-2023 School calendar

Staff report/recommendations: The state does not provide a specific requirement for the number of on-site days for our school. Head of School recommends a 35-week school year. Suggests that PSA maintain a school year schedule fairly similar to other local public and private schools to assist caregivers with planning and childcare.

Recommends 3 mornings per week for elementary students and 3 days (9:30am - 2:00 pm for secondary). Board might consider extending elementary time on-site, if they wish.

Board Q&A/Discussion

Consider moving start times? Research suggests negative impact on students if moved earlier

- Board agreed to maintain 9:30 am start time
- Consider extending elementary to 9:30 am-1:15 pm
- Allow for one early release Thursday per month (12:30 pm) for professional development for guides
- Much remains unknown about COVID variants, transmission, and community spread for 2022-2023 academic year; may need to revisit lunch on-site
- Fall semester: Start 8/16/22, off week of Thanksgiving, fall ends 12/15/22
- Spring semester: start 1/17/23, spring break off with Truman, end 5/25/23

4. Re-enrollment timeline

Staff report/recommendations: Head of School recommends a re-enrollment deadline of March 25 and that tuition be due on July 1, 2022, for the 2022-2023 school year

Board Q&A/Discussion

No objections or concerns stated

5. Lottery and waitlist

Staff report/recommendations: Head of School recommended that the Board initiate discussion about our definition of “equitable enrollment”

Board Q&A/Discussion

The board discussion the advantages/disadvantages to the following topics and guidelines as they would apply to a lottery and waitlist:

- No sibling advantage
- Advantage to students who are not exclusively white
- Prioritize guides’ children

6. Head of School update

Staff report: Grant opportunity for \$20,000-25,000 with a pre-application due this Friday

7. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 pm