



AGENDA
SENSE Board of Directors
Monday, March 24, 2024 - 5:30pm
SENSE School
1601 Barth Avenue, Indianapolis, IN

[This will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option]

Attendance: Jessica Ballard-Barnett, Lee Lewellen, Jodi Golden, Bethany Gosewehr, Bryan Bernard, Colleen Pawlicki

1. **Call To Order @ 17:31**
2. **Executive Committee – Jessica Ballard-Barnett**
 - a. **Board Member Recruitment**
 - i. Jessica and Bethany attended recruitment event; 12 people signed up, and 7 have followed up; it was a diverse group of candidates.
 - ii. Mavis Washington (in attendance, from mayor's recruitment event, former SENSE teacher, colleague of Bethany) is working on the criminal background check portion of joining the board.
 1. Next meeting, Jessica will share Mavis's resume for consideration.
 - iii. Laura Giffel is working on her criminal background check as well; board will receive her resume for consideration soon too.
3. **Education Committee Report**
 - a. **Education Committee Meeting Calendar**
 - i. Has not met, but Dr. Sweeney has submitted the calendar of meetings.
4. **Marketing/Fundraising Committee Report – Bethany Gosewehr**
 - a. Have not had a meeting since last meeting but will schedule one soon.
 - b. School Mint is starting a new campaign; getting a lot of good inquiries (3-4 every week); majority are ENL families.
 - c. Mind Trust also has a campaign; will have 20 kindergarteners at the open house.
 - i. Personal connections are helping a lot with student recruitment.
 - ii. Have had a lot of traction through Facebook and Instagram
5. **Finance Committee Update – Jodi Golden**
 - a. **Monthly Financials**
 - i. Our income is a little lower than what we budgeted.
 - ii. Expenses are right around what we budgeted.
 - iii. Cash review: Keep in mind that when we get the financials, it is the 15th of the month, so each still has half of the month to go, so numbers might change. This is a snapshot in time.
 - b. **Budget Discussion**
 - i. Presenting draft budget for SY 2024-2025; will vote on it in April.
 - ii. Next student count date is September; will revise after that.
 - iii. Preliminary budget: This budget is based off of ADM of 600. State support increased. By 1.8%, special education support up 5.7%.

- iv. Additional grants are accounted for in this budget.
- v. ESSER grant will be fully expensed, so some of the salary expenses in that grant will be coming back to the normal budget.
- vi. Salaries will have an increase of 2%.
- vii. Food has gone up but will be offset by reimbursement.
- viii. Looking at about ~\$9M in income, expenses at ~\$8.7M
- ix. Will not be receiving ERC next year.
- x. Major expenses include food (reimbursable), transportation (will be using facilities grant to offset this next year), and salary.
- xi. Possible shortfall of \$800k next year.
 - 1. Charter facility grant will help offset this.
 - 2. SIG grant will help offset this.
 - 3. Staff reductions will help offset.
 - 4. Try to decrease purchasing as needed as well.
 - 5. Depreciation also impacts this shortfall, but depreciation doesn't impact cash flow or operating expenses. Items, like the building and technology, have depreciation attached to it.
- xii. For this year's budget, may need to pull from CD funds to keep cash flow moving. The CD will expire in May, and we will likely not renew it to help with cash flow and avoid cuts.
- xiii. Running an volleyball and pickleball league in the new gym; will receive \$800/week (if they hold the events 4 days a week); others have reached out about renting the gym as well.
- xiv. Board not voting this month; Jodi presenting it this month to give board time to consider before voting next month.
- xv. It is the board's practice to set a conservative budget.

6. Staff Reports - Dr. Kristie Sweeney

a. Head of School Report

- i. PowerSchool glitch affected attendance rates, but that has been resolved. Flu season has been affecting student and teacher attendance. Attendance rate at 93.5%. The mayor's office would like it to be at 95%. With new legislation, students can only have 5 unexcused absences before moving on to truancy, which will require more staff time to track. Will work with staff to think about how to shift staff to address this. It is ultimately the school's responsibility to make sure students get to school.
- ii. Discipline referrals are in part related to teachers' classroom management. We have 200+ calls for discipline in the last 3 weeks. There is a spike in attendance, but this in part because students or siblings are getting put out of other schools for discipline reasons, which affects discipline rates at SENSE upon enrollment.
 - 1. Discipline is more an issue in primary than in middle school (in part because the new students are in primary)
- iii. IREAD-3 legislation will go into effect next year (regarding retaining students who do not pass exam). Hoping there will be additional resources and funding to help change support in order to impact IREAD-3.

- iv. Construction on roof will start during spring break. Will also prepare for electric and HVAC work to be done with future grants.
- v. IREAD-3 scores: ~49% pass, which is a good starting point. We have a lot of newcomers in the school (5-6 students), so it's difficult for those students to pass when they haven't had instruction but will be able to pass with more time. High number of ENL students and all special education students passed; 18 2nd graders passed. All high ability students passed. 12:1 is making a huge impact with high ability classes. We've been moving low ability students but not high ability students in the past, so it's good to see that the 12:1 intervention is helping with high ability students.
 - 1. 12 students were very close to passing; have already grouped students to receive remediation during the school day; also offering tutoring after school.
 - 2. Students who were part of READ-UP did well.
 - 3. Last year, the students who did not pass IREAD had to take it again; it was difficult to get them in to take the test after school was let out, which counts again. So now we are doing remediation during the school day and will have students retake IREAD before the school year ends so that everyone who needs to retest takes the test again.
 - 4. Aiming at 75%-80% pass rate.
 - 5. All but 1 teacher in 2nd/3rd is coming back, so feeling good about being able to build on success next year.
- vi. Destination school: want to be a destination school for high ability, ENL, special education.
 - 1. With the 12:1, want to look at how it is impacting sub-groups of students to make better informed decisions.

b. 2024 - 25 School Calendar (vote)

- i. **Motion to approve calendar:** Lee Lewellen
- ii. 2nd: Bethany Gosewehr
- iii. **Motion passed @ 18:17.**

c. Next Gen School Improvement Grant (vote)

- i. **Motion to approve SENSE pursuing the grant:** Bethany Gosewehr
- ii. 2nd: Jodi Golden
- iii. **Motion passed @ 18:19.**

7. February 2024 Minutes Approval (vote)

- i. **Motion:** Bethany Gosewehr
- ii. 2nd: Bryan Bernard
- iii. **Motion passed @ 18:19.**

8. Old Business

- a. N/a

9. Public Comment

- a. N/a

10. Motion to adjourn

- a. **Motion:** Bethany Gosewehr

- b. 2nd: Bryan Bernard
- c. Meeting adjourned at 18:20.

Zoom Access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83257495665?pwd=OVZNOUtsWk9kM1YyYWE2YUY2VFFLdz09>

Meeting ID: 832 5749 5665

Passcode: SENSEBoard

Next Board Meeting: April 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m. in the SENSE Cafeteria