

Natural Science Academy

-a school named for environmentalist, Michael Frome

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Interim Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

6:15pm

Meeting Location: Natural Science Academy, St. Paul Park

- I. Call Meeting to Order – Roll call
- II. Read NSA Mission
- III. Recognition of Visitors
- IV. Approval of Agenda (2 minutes)
- V. Board Development (15 minutes)
 - a. *Charter School Board University* by Brian Carpenter Discussion – Sections 8, Chapter 26, 27 - Leading for the Future
 - b. Review Open Meeting Law
 - c. Strategic Planning – “The Seven Outs” by Brian Carpenter
 - d. Board Meeting visits – Has anyone gone to another school board meeting? Please share.
- VI. Reports
 - a. Director Update (20 minutes)
 - i. Enrollment/Staff Update
 - ii. Student Achievement
 - iii. Marketing
 - iv. PAC Report (5 minutes)
 - v. Director Review – (10-11)
 - b. Finance Committee (5 minutes)
 - c. Other
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Discussion / Action Items
 - a. Approve Minutes of March 8th, 2011 Board Meeting (2 minutes)
 - b. Approve March Financial Statements (5 minutes)
 - c. Approved Revised Fund Balances and Fiscal Management Practices Resolution
 - d. Approve 2011-2012 School Calendar
 - e. Other
- IX. Other business
 - a. Board Members - Officers (5 minutes)
 - i. Secretary – need to fill
 - b. Annual Meeting
 - i. Nominating Committee
 - ii. Board Recruitment
 - c. Upcoming events (2 minutes)
 - i. NSA “Go WILD for Science Family Night” – Thursday, April 24th – 6:30-8pm
 - ii. TREK – Battle Creek Regional Park – Wednesday, April 20th
 - iii. Early Release – Staff Development – Thursday, April 21st
 - iv. Spring Holiday – Friday, April 22nd
 - v. PAC Meeting – Tuesday, May ?, 6:30-8pm
 - d. Other

- X. Future Meetings
- a. Board Meeting Schedule/Calendar
Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10th
Tuesday, June 14th
 - b. **1st NSA Annual Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 at 7pm in the cafeteria**
 - c. Board Retreat – Review last board retreat paperwork – do we want to plan a retreat day?
 - d. Committee Meetings
 - i. Finance Committee – 5:45pm before Board Meeting
Members: Jim Gleekel, Traci LaFerriere, Kirsten Kinzler
 - e. Board Training – upcoming opportunities
Board Training on Friday, April 15th at Academics Arts in South St. Paul. Kirsten, Kendra, Jane and Jim will all be attending.
- XI. Adjourn Meeting

Natural Science Academy Executive Summary

(updated 01.01.11)

Natural Science Academy (NSA) (formerly known as Michael Frome Academy) opened in September of 2008 in Woodbury with 40 students in grades K-3. Each year through 2010, a grade will be added until the Academy serves children in grades K-5 with a maximum enrollment of 175 students.

The vision of the NSA includes developing a “green” school where the facility, operations, and curriculum reflect a commitment to environmental sustainability and community citizenship. The mission will promote integrated-interdisciplinary environmental studies, community partnerships, and community-based (place-based) learning to foster academic achievement, intrapersonal and interpersonal growth, and social responsibility for all students.

NSA’s original site was a new facility that was built next to the Woodbury Math and Science Academy. The interim governing board of the Academy worked with a conservation builder who agreed to build a “green” facility in accordance with the vision for the school and aligned with the city of Woodbury’s Comprehensive Plan. This location is ideal in that it is adjacent to many natural and community resources which will be utilized by the charter school, including the Woodbury YMCA, Woodbury’s Stafford Public Library, ponds and a bog-walk, and natural areas such as the Tamarack Nature Preserve and Pioneer Park. During the summer of 2010 due to outgrowing our space, NSA moved to the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School Building in St. Paul Park. During this time we also changed our name to Natural Science Academy in order to be more readily recognized.

Using the State Education and Environment Roundtable’s (SEER) Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC) for the learning model and Project GLOBE, NSA features interdisciplinary, collaborative, student-centered, hands-on, and engaged learning. Place-based learning will utilize the school’s surroundings, the community, and the natural environment as a framework within which students construct their own learning through an inquiry-based approach. NSA’s small class sizes (22-24 students) and low student/staff ratio; its “green” facility and curriculum; its place-based, instructional focus emphasizing environmental science; its differentiated mathematics instruction designed to increase student proficiency levels on MCA-IIs; and the development of Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) for each student will meet student needs that currently are not being met in South Washington County schools.

Through support from SEER, Hamline University’s Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) and the Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW), teachers will be trained to design highly-motivating curriculum, helping students to develop an appreciation of the natural world and their community and enabling character development, a respect for diversity and sustainability, and stewardship, as well as fostering their academic achievement.

NSA VISION: To develop a "green" school for children where the facility, operations, and educational program reflect a commitment to the natural environment.