

SPA Board Meeting Minutes

9.1.10

Meeting started at 7:05 pm

In attendance: Michelle Thompson, SBO; Terese and Bailey Borough; Bethany Hansen; Stan Funicelli; people from Oakwood School, Jim Lipscomb, Kristi Swett, Chris Jenson, Shawn Turner, Robyn Campbell, Charles Brainerd, Mary Lee Anderton, Robin Hough, Liz Smith, Carrie Morgan, John Newman, Missy Whiteurs

Class Size

Last spring the budget for 2010-2011 was presented and approved at 150 students. After the first week of school, 190 students are registered at SPA, a 27% increase, with 45 students from Highland registered for classes, for a total of 205 students or 37% increase. There are 56 freshman, the largest class. Acting I has over 65 students. Next year, if the same increase happens, SPA will have 240 students.

Discussion ideas

- SPA is a hands/on – vocational school, unlike regular public schools
- Need to define optimum class size and what can be “lived with” – this must be determined on a class-by-class basis.
- There is difficulty in getting students into Highland classes because of SPA class offerings. SPA class space is full. 4 classrooms are shared with Highland.
- Auditorium space use for regular classes is not an option because of past scheduling difficulties and enables better performance/etc. scheduling for both schools.
- Should a stepped cap of growth be started?
- Registration must be at 400 for SPA to pay for a building.
- **Need sustainability of growth.** SPA is starting to achieve this.
- HHS had 20 students over their projected number.
- Last year SPA enrollment: freshman: 55; sophomore: 51; junior: 46; seniors: 36
- Average charter school class size is 20-25
- SPA is at 35; feel with attrition it will come down to 28
- **Modified scheduling:**
 - “0” period – 7am through 1 pm
 - 9-10 period – 2:30-4 pm
 - Rehearsals are currently being held at 6:30 am and at 3 pm
 - Stage building goes on after school
 - The little theatre is being used more for smaller productions
- Other facility options
 - Clayton
 - Portables
- South balcony – difficult for actors to hear and dancers to dance – safety issues
- Stage in auditorium – made of concrete – hard on dancers; marley floor helps
- Space is the overall issue at the moment
 - Determine what classes can be divided
 - Determine if Highland has any space which can be utilized – possible tour with Missy, Carrie and Highland administration
- Use of Clayton / Hillside – transportation is a problem
- Freshman and sophomore at HHS; junior and seniors offsite

- Trapezoid is available 5/6 and 7/8
- SPA needs to be more communicative with HHS during the summer re enrollment fluctuations
- Dance I and Theatre I too full – need to be split
- Expecting 9% cut in school budget mid-year
- Guarantee teachers who take 1 or 2 classes per semester; address attrition this way
- Mission statement – professional track arts school; determined by what SPA wants to provide to the students
- Cut smaller classes this semester? Then use that to split larger classes
- But small classes are what SPA is about – hands-on
- A105 – use possibility? Insulation? Students have to go outside to access the classroom
- C204 – old science room: remove desks and cap gas pipes? Tiered
- Portables: used to have them in South wing, top of stadium and by library. Wiring, etc. still in place?
- Schedule SPA classes in afternoon; HHS core classes in morning
- Interim caps on registration: whole school; freshman through senior classes – separate #s for each class
- Home & Hospital option: Oakwood
 - Tailor needs to each student & core class needs; family and counselors made the decisions
 - Online or go to Midvale space
 - It's classroom in a box; novanet online – pre/post testing; similar to Virtual Academy; Northwest accredited

Bethany Hansen

- Modern I has 32 dancers in A103
 - Has to split the class into 4 to teach; has an aide; evaluations on each student are done every 4 days instead of 2; difficult to see what is going on and address it – hands on class; ½ the room is taken to line the dancers up to go across the floor
 - Idea size: 15 students
 - Ballet I has 26 students; takes 12 minutes with TA assisting to work through class and make corrections/provide instruction

Stan Funicelli

- 30 guitars, footstools, music stands – very crowded
- Difficult to see what is happening with all students at any given time; has to drop some instruction – this presents difficulties as this class builds for the following year's instruction – continuum idea
- Ideal size: 15; 20 with TA

Jared Oaks

- Women's choir – 30 right now; 35 would be ideal

MOTION: Split Theatre I and Modern I; use Trapezoid space
Robin Hough moved; Mary Lee Anderton seconded; unanimous

Demographics of each class – size, etc.

- Reoccurring problem – large entry level classes
- Conservatory classes – important to keep small – elite / intense
- Must be sensitive to class size – go class-by-class – optimum vs. workable compromise

- Data gathering: certain groups will maintain % of students from freshman to senior year

NEXT MEETING REPORTING

- Information on portables
- C204 – info on if conversion/use is possible
- Roslyn Heights – unmothballing
 - Liability of student transport
 - Cost analysis for retro
 - Reasonable rent
- HHS – possibility of space
- Roslyn Heights and portables as stop gaps
- Fund Raising activities - Mary Lee Anderton
- Grants
- Sponsors
- Approaching major foundations
- Switch room question
- What the District wants as far as metrics go
- Carrie – survey of teachers: ideal #, max # you can handle, other questions

- Meeting ended at 9:45 pm