Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2023

Held via Zoom (snow)

Present: Chair: Christie Storniolo (CES), Secretary: Alyssa Ross (AR); Vice-Chair: Christine Miele (CM); Treasurer: Michael Gendreau (MG); Becca Allan (BA), Alexis Goldsack (AG)
Staff: Chris Smith (CDS), Jessica Wachsman (JW), Aimye Haroutunian (AH), Erin Balfe (EB)
Regrets: Debbie Kruzel (DK), Pamela Sarantis (PS)

CES called meeting to order at 7:21pm

General

Approval of minutes from February 21 meeting. BA motions to approve, AG seconds. CM abstains. All others in favor. None opposed.

Correspondence

- none

Next meetings

- Full Board
    - April 11, 5:30pm
        - Mrs. Black-Ward will do a Teacher Spotlight
- Finance
    - April 4, 5:30pm

Recent Events:

- Blue Ribbon Celebration - March 10, 6pm-10pm
- Legislative Open House - March 13 at 9am

Teacher Update: Allison Baldanado

AB ran a STEAM needs assessment to entire staff to learn if there is a shared vision around STEAM and is that vision consistently communicated? The answer was no, so AB met with individual teachers to dig deeper. AB and Jen Madden (JM) will do more professional development on STEAM. She then talked about engineering design process and how to incorporate that into the curriculum; AB and JM are working on versions for different grade level

bands and how to develop a common language as the children advance so the students have continuity. She also looked at STEAM career awareness; 82% of the staff did not think the kids know what's out there for a path, so she's starting to make connections with the community to build that insight. AB said she was surprised that some teachers feel STEAM was supplemental and others felt it was core, so she's trying to show that it's a way to elevate a current lesson and not add something new.

She shared that she and others attended the NOLA conference and are going to other conferences as well as learning about different curriculum options and technology to bring in to the school

She is also spending 5-10 minutes during each staff meeting to showcase options, way to bring STEAM into curriculum, etc. She's also developing an engineering design process staff PD day as well as a TinkerCAD training.

She is running a STEAM Camp this summer - details to come. LIkely to do a beginners camp and advanced camp.

Dean of School update

Enrollment

- 225 enrolled
- Wait list at 201

Events and Updates

- Pi day was postponed due to weather
- CDS, JW attended Charter School meeting today
    - Partnering with DoE to get guest speakers
    - Breakout sessions on Special Ed, Finance, HR
    - Received a legislative update: NH House kept $900 charter school update in the bill but the overall school increase is not in there, but expected to go to committee combined conference. We will not know until June; we need a campaign on this to our parent community - can look to repurpose materials from Legislative Open House.
    - Next event is on April 20th 5-7pm at Puritan Back Room, and Board members are invited as well.
- Two teachers attended UDL training on Friday, March 10
- Had quite a few staff out with illness before break but our designated volunteers are holding out.

Personnel

- Still looking for part time Math
- Still looking for 3rd grade TA

Foundation/Friends update

Recent activity

- Blue Ribbon Celebration March 10, Castleton Event Center
    - 195 attendees: 123 adults, 72 children
    - Raised about $7,300 (for comparison we usually raise about $9k with FYC with over 300 attendees)

Upcoming activity

- Cash Calendar April
    - Daily cash drawings for the month of April 2023; looking at having $1,500 in cash prizes
    - Process
        - Calendars can be purchased for $10 each.
        - Calendars may be purchased via PayPal or by cash or check.
        - A ticket will be drawn each day during the month of April to determine that day's prize-winner. The winner's name goes back into the drawing to try to win again.
        - We will call/email daily winners and announce them on our Facebook
    - We ask each family to sell 15 calendar raffles. Need to sell 1,150 raffles to raise $10,000 (after $1500) payout.
    - Have sold 200 so far; will start to push.
- Birches Day of Giving
    - June 6-7
    - 24 hour fundraising period in conjunction with NH Gives
    - Will plan an in school event to launch event

Committee updates

Governance

- Potential new BOT member will attend April meeting.
- MG is early-stage touch with 2 others
- Goal remains to have 2 new BOT members before the end of second quarter of 2023.

Outreach

- Website revamp
    - Contract signed
    - Have V1 - Alyssa to have a call with the vendor to review current draft

Facilities, Finance, Personnel, Curriculum, Strategic Planning did not meet

Policy Reviews

March: none
April: Wellness and Attendance

MG motions to adjourn. CM seconds. All agree. 8:21 PM meeting adjourned.