Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes OPEN
Date: Monday, January 13, 2014 7:00pm

Held at: Birches Academy
419 South Broadway Ave, Salem, NH 03079

Present: Christie Storniolo, Chair, Dr. Dael Angelico-Hart, Head of School, Sarah Morris Teacher Representative, Ruth Templeton, Dianne Wright, Melissa Magnuson, John Mack, Caren Brown, Andy Ducharme, Ola Lessard

Committee/Community Members: Jessica Wachsman, Steve DeVito, Aimee Haratounian, Christina D'Allesandro

Regrets: Holly Ruocco, Secretary, Kevin Collins, Treasurer

Call to Order: CS called to order 7:05 pm

1. Approval last meetings minutes: JM motions to approve the minutes, MM seconds. All in favor: All; All Oppose: None. Abstained: CM. Minutes are approved.

No correspondence received by the secretary.

2. CS discusses Board Member changes. HR and RT will be stepping down from the Board by June. KC has changed jobs and will not be able to fulfill obligations. DW has taken over interim Treasurer role while looking for a full time Treasurer. OL will be stepping down from the Board today. CS begins discussion of ways to recruit new members. OL recommends a new member with communications or marketing background. RT recommends a member with an education background. At the next Board

meeting, an open house for new members will begin on February 10, 2014 at 6pm. DAH will put a notice on SchoolSpring for open board positions. JW will reach out to parent with relationship to Mt Washington College. Advertising in the newspaper, Chamber of Commerce, and CPA firms needed.

3. Head of School Report: See attached report submitted by DAH. DAH indicates current enrollment of 169 students. Current waitlist for all grades total 136. DAH has not spoken yet with Mr. Delahunty regarding difficulty of busing. Choir has opportunity to sing at the Fisher Cats game. The Birches need to purchase 50 tickets. DAH will promote the event throughout the school community.

4. Bill HB 435: Community Member Christina D'Allesandro discusses the bill to increase charter school funding considerably. The bill is a holdover from a prior year that is back up for a vote. The bill must pass through 9 votes to be approved. CA reviewed the legislative process. CA recommends reaching out to Division 2 Finance Committee and local Legislators. CA also discussed bill for Charter School lease aid. DAH will be going to the NH Charter Association meeting tomorrow. Recommendations will be made to DAH at the meeting on how the Birches should support the bill. Board members, faculty and several parents emailed legislators showing support for HB 435. CS recommends 3 steps - 1. Letter of appreciation to all who voted to keep bill alive; 2. Letter to Division 2 Finance members asking for support; 3. Phone call to all Division 2 Finance members from constituents asking for support.

CS discussed her conversation with Eileen Luponis, from the NH Charter School Association, about attending our next Board Meeting.

5. Finance: Finance reports reviewed. JM motioned to accept the 12/31/13 financial reports, MM seconds. All in favor: All. All opposed: None. Reports Accepted.

JW discussed taking expansion space. Landlord will not rent 3,000sf based on prior discussions, only entire rental area

totaling 5,791sf. As part of Charter, Kindergarten is approved. JW has spoken with Fire Marshall to get approval. JW is meeting with Fire Marshall next week to review space and determine if approved for Kindergarten. CS discussed considering adding pre-school if possible. OL discussed option of working with colleges to employee student teaching assistants. JW discussed ways to offset rental costs by subleasing part of the expansion space to night and summer programs. Further discussion is needed with the Fire Marshall and landlord prior to taking any additional space. Aimee Haratounian asked when Kindergarten would be implemented. DAH expressed that the expansion space is critical to the school for dances, performance areas, and gym space. CS expressed feeling from Finance committee meeting that a lack of Forest Forum and all school meetings have affected the community feeling of the school and the Finance Committee understands wanting the expansion space and the overwhelming cost. AH asked if there may be a decrease in enrollment numbers based on not expanding. DAH indicated she agreed that would be possible. Steve DeVito asked if possible to expand only the Middle School. CS agreed that the option warrants future discussion though it is not in our current Charter.

CS reviewed strategic planning session of February 8, 2014 from 9-12. CS will put together framework of meeting and planning package for review.

6. Non-Public Session: None

7. Public Comment: Steve DeVito asked if during the school year we compare ourselves to other schools in the area. DAH indicated that NEWA test results will indicate comparison of students to other students at the Birches as well as other students nationwide. JW indicated that the new Curriculum Coordinator is mapping our curriculum to ensure the Birches is meeting or exceeding standards.

DW motions to adjourn. RT seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:18:pm.