Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2014

Held at: The Birches Academy
419 South Broadway, Salem NH

Present: Christie Storniolo (Chair), Diane Wright (Acting Treasurer), Andy Ducharme (Co-Chair) , Dael Angelico-Hart, Christine Miele (Acting Secretary), John Mack, Ruth Templeton, Melissa Magnasson, Alyssa Ross

Regrets: Caren Brown, Holly Ruocco, Alexa Stewart, Sarah Morris

Public: Stephen DeVito, Kara Christesen

CS called meeting to order at 7:04 PM

1. CM will be secretary for this meeting.

2. Approval of Meeting minutes – JM motions to approve minutes from 5/12/14, AD seconds. All in favor – JM, AD, CS, AR, DAH, MM, RT. All opposed – None.

3. Correspondence – The Board received a letter of resignation from the Board from Holly Ruocco, Secretary.

4. Interview of Board Candidate – New Board member, Kara Christesen expressed interest in a board position. Ms. Christesen spoke about her desire to help the school. She is currently an educator at Salem High School, has a first grader at the Birches, and has been on the Curriculum Committee this year. The Board asked questions.

5. JM motions to go into non-public session RSA 3:2 (a), (b), (e). AD seconds. All approved.

6. JM motions to come out of non-public session. AD seconds. All approved.

7. AD motions for Kara Christesen to be approved as a new Board member, JM seconds. All approved. JM recommends that each Board member upload a bio to the Birches Academy website. CS requests all members submit an updated bio by July 14th board meeting.

8. HOS Update – See attached HOS update. Board has discussed option of accepting out-of-state tuition based students. DW opposes accepting out-of-state students. The tuition, based on the website, will be $8,000. A disclaimer will be added that the tuition cost for the 2014-2015 school year will be $8,000 and may be changed each school year. Further discussion is needed on out-of-state student policies.

9. Review of Communication Policy – AR suggests adding reverse 911 call information. AR suggests noting that the Foundation Facebook page is an invitation only page which allows posts and is different from the Birches Facebook page is posted by the school only and can be viewed by anyone. Change "Room Mom" to "Room Parent". DAH will move Room Parent section to "Modes of Communication". AR suggested rewording Teacher Updates section to include all means of teacher communications including teacher websites. DAH will revise and bring to July meeting for approval. JM indicated that the Board should receive notifications from staff about upcoming meetings and charter events.

10. Review of Ambassador Communication Policy – AR suggested adding "Room Parents" to the first paragraph of the policy. CS requests motion to approve policy with changes noted above. RT motions to approve, JM seconds. All approved.

11. Finance Committee - Meeting of the Finance Committee did not take place in June therefore the budget coversheet will not approved until the July meeting. CS suggests further discussion of upcoming plans for surplus at the end of each year. CM suggests a report each month from the Foundation indicating current fundraising and future goals.

12. CM discussed bringing in a new teacher liaison for 2014-2015 school year. DAH will bring request to next staff meeting to look for volunteers. DW suggests exit interview for current teacher liaison, Sarah Morris.

13. No public session

Meeting adjourned 9:43 – AD motions, RT seconds