Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: June 8, 2015

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

Present: Christine Miele (Acting Chair), Dael Angelico-Hart (HOS), Jessica Wachsman, Kara Christesen, Alyssa Ross (acting secretary), John Mack, Christie Storniolo, Melissa Magnuson, Erin McArdle (Teacher Representative), Nicole Charest (Teacher Representative)

Regrets: Andy Ducharme (Chair), Alex Stewart, Dianne Wright (Treasurer), Jody Ronayne

Public: None

CM called meeting to order at 7:12 PM

1. Public Comment or Correspondence: None
2. Head of School Update from DAH:
    a. We are +2 for next year (2 extra 8th graders); but confident that this will get to 225
    b. Successful open house for incoming K/1st grade – almost all new families came (over 50 people); still half dozen or so who have accepted but had never been here before
    c. Washington DC trip was successful though compiling some good ideas/lessons for next time
    d. Fine Arts/Integrated Arts night – combining them was a success
    e. End of Year Musical Celebration
    f. Discussed testing- still will have NWEA, NECAP, Smarter Balance for the foreseeable future
    g. Puberty presentation – added this into grade 5; no one opted out but a few parents previewed the video (maybe will time next year with Science NECAPs so there is a natural split with the 4th and 5th graders)
    h. Charter Association – DAH missed the last meeting due to DC trip; next meeting is July 8; future is still TBD with this group, as leadership is changing. Also still figuring out how to work with Matt Southerton. DAH is continuing to work with C. D'Alessandro on outreach strategy for pending legislation. $36 for year 1, $286 for year 2.
    i. Curriculum Committee – no meeting in June; Facebook discussions have been happening on math but it seems to be a general frustration with 'new math' over anything specific to Birches. Raised discussion about use of the Foundation Facebook page. Could push school commitment/committees via comments.

j. Personnel Committee – interviews for grade 4/5 teach assistant June 19. Mrs. Mangelinx is moving to 3, Mrs. Biel going to 1/2. Mrs. Hampstead to K. Will have another assist.
k. KC motioned to approve the teacher contracts; CS seconded. All approved. AD must come in and sign the contracts.
l. Outreach committee – trifold brochure. Comments were provided. CM to revise. AR to send former FAQ.

3. Finance Reports:
    a. Finance Committee did not meet in June.
    b. Downstairs lease has been signed. Expecting to go before Planning Board June 23 to recategorize space from commercial to academic.
    c. CS raised question of looking again at building ownership v. leasing. Add a further discussion to next board meeting to look at numbers and goals, especially after we know the state funding.
4. Foundation Update:
    a. Foundation has brought in over 85K this year, plus expenses – there are some matches still coming and still some things trickling in
    b. Had a meeting regarding next year to start planning; have calendar put together with all items to try to get people aware of what is coming on a monthly basis
    c. Everyone is still staying, but would like to get a new treasurer
5. Main Issues and Policy Updates:
    a. No new policies to discuss; will later discuss a PE policy
    b. Need to add a smoking/drug/alcohol policy into the student handbook
    c. HoS evalution. At last check everyone on the Board at least started the survey, a few incompletes. Two staff members have not started, KC to send reminder. Meeting to be scheduled with HoS committee to review data, with goal being to review evaluation by July meeting.
    d. Publicity committee – Shoot for one thing a month. Add picture of Washington trip. Submitted 1st day of school pictures. First day of kindergarten. Doug Ireland – reach out to him regarding the addition. CoC ribbon cutting for new part of school. CoC meetings – try Foundation again next year. Graduation. Look at charter for the listing of Publicity Committee. Artist of the Month. Focus on what makes us different. Open BBoT slots – we need to promote that, ongoing.
    e. BBoT Members. CoC has an electronic newsletter that we can advertise for new community members. JM term up and will retire. Board thanked him for his time and input. MM is considering, as her 3 year term is up. CS may know someone; she is going to reach out. Could also do a Business Before Hours to recruit CoC members who might be interested.
6. Housekeeping
    a. April minutes for approval. MM recommends approval, JM seconds. All agree.
    b. May minutes for approval. JM recommends approval, MM seconds. All agree, except CM abstains.

AR approves to adjourn, MM seconds. All agree.

9:12 meeting adjourned**.**