Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Date: March 16, 2021

Held via Zoom video conferencing

Present: Chair: Christie Storniolo (CES), Treasurer: Michael Gendreau (MG), Bob Hawkes (BH), Pamela Sarantis (PS), Debbie Kruzel (DK), Vice Chair: Christine Miele (CM)
Staff: Chris Smith (CDS), Jessica Wachsman (JW), Aimye Haroutunian (AH), Erin Balfe (EB)
Regrets: Secretary: Alyssa Ross (AR)

CES called meeting to order at 5:34pm

General

This meeting is taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic; we are holding the meeting via videoconferencing software. The public was notified and invited to join. Please note even when school reopens the Board may continue to meet via Zoom in order to limit activity at school.

Approval of minutes from February 16 regular meeting. MG motions to approve, BH seconds. All others in favor. CM and DK abstain. None opposed

Correspondence

- None

Next meetings

- April 6: 5:30pm Finance committee
- April 13: 5:30pm Board
- May 4: 5:30pm Finance committee
- May 18: 5:30pm Board

Dean of School update

Enrollment

- 2020-21 enrollment at 224, wait list at 137
- K lottery February 17 - all spots not finalized yet

School Updates

- Drama club is being done virtually and is going well
- 3D printing club started on 3/9. Expanded class to 8 students due to high demand, but the nature of the club still lets me distance the students.

- More teachers are reaching out to have me observe particular lessons and offer feedback.
- Vaccination was offered through the state to teachers on 3/12/21
- Tea with Mr. Smith - not scheduled yet
- Most kids have come back to school full time. Approximately 30 are full remote.

Staff Highlight

Erin McArdle has created a Google notebook lesson on the current chapters that she will review including videos, links, and interactive activities. This is in place of paper activities and she supplements this with her lecture notes. The students get copies and this can be available for remote learners as well.

Foundation update

Read- A-Thon Update:

- As of 3/15/2021 we have $5,856 in online pledges
- 31% of students participating
- Does not include cash or check pledge donations
- Goal was to raise $1,500
- Will continue until 3/27

Charity Gaming

- 10 day gaming profits $2,979.30

Fundraisers in the works:

Annual Appeal Mailing

- Draft letter to be sent out week of 3/15

Mega Cash Raffle:

- Launch April 1st
- 300 tickets sold at $100 each
- Grand Prize $10,000, 2nd $2,500, 3rd $500
- Need to sell a min of 230 tickets to make $10,000
- It we sell all 300 tickets - Foundation will make $17,000 after payouts
- We will select a drawing date once 150 tickets are sold.

Committee updates

Finance

- Reviewed February financials. BH motions to approve, MG seconds. All approve. None opposed.

- JW reviewed how charter school funding works in NH
- Reviewed 2021-2022 budget. BH motions to approve, PS seconds. All approve. None opposed.
- Board has approved adding PS and MG as check signers and removing no longer active board members. DK motions to approve. BH seconds. None opposed.

Personnel

- CES to review Dean of School review process

Outreach

- Alyssa is working on FB content - ensuring new content at least twice per week.
- Continuing to keep Birches main FB updated
- Plan on gathering lots of content for our social media - especially in order to kick off our Instagram page with robust and consistent content in the Spring
- Alyssa met with the rep from Salem Life magazine to add free content and we will look to advertise with them in the future for the lottery or perhaps board recruitment
- Christine will create an Alumni/Past Donor newsletter. Will be ready to send in April.
- Christine met with the Parent Ambassadors group in February - 4 of 7 joined the meeting. We will meet once per month.
- Alyssa and Christine to discuss and create a crisis management plan.
- Starting to work on updated marketing plan for 2021/2022

Curriculum

- Committee looking at the current curriculum - considering looking at resources to develop our own curriculum. This is currently on the back burner.

Capital Campaign, Governance, Strategic Planning, Facilities

- No updates

Policy Reviews

Board reviewed Concussion Policy. DK motion to accept concussion policy. BH seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

Board reviewed Acceptable Use of Technology Policy. BH motions to accept technology, PS seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

Board reviewed Student Communication Policy. DK motions to accept communication policy, BH seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

March - we will review Homework Policy

No non-public session or public comment. CM motions to adjourn. PS seconds. All agree.

7:44pm meeting adjourned.