Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Date: November 15, 2022

Held at The Birches Academy

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

CES called meeting to order at 5:37pm

General

Approval of minutes from October 11 regular meeting. AG motions to approve, PS seconds. AR abstains. All others in favor. None opposed.

Correspondence

- none

Next meetings

- Full Board (in person)
    - December 13th 5:30 pm
    - Still looking to reschedule meeting with Jim
- Finance (Zoom)
    - December 6th
- CES is putting together the 2023 proposed schedule to be reviewed in the December meeting

General business

- Reviewed Board volunteer opportunities

Teacher sharing

Jen Madden shared her approach to room transformations in 3rd grade. An example is with the vet clinic. Hands-based, role-playing lessons to show how the students can recall and use those skills in a real-world way. Connects math in a way that shows how they can use it in life. Also integrates technology with getting answers with QR codes. All work is checked by a teacher, so can use this to assess them in a formative way. Also incorporates group work. Has an alternative lesson for any child who won't engage but has never had to use it. Have also done this with a pizza restaurant, focusing on lessons about volumes - also mixes in writing, advertising, etc. Kids enjoy having the classroom look different.

Dean of School update

Enrollment

- 224 enrolled
- Wait list at 157

Events and Updates

- Several teachers are working on training programs, including Letters which is a intensive multi-year program
- Mrs. DiOrio and CDS attended a mental health training
- A lot of different illnesses are going around, but so far staffing hasn't been a major issue.
- CDS, JW and CES when to Washington for Blue Ribbon
    - Made connections with a couple of schools to follow up with.
    - We got a flagpole for the Blue Ribbon flag and a nice plaque to display.
- We are completing the first round of state testing which will help us with data to compare to end of year data and to other data we collect.
- Tea with Mr. Smith was not very well attended, but parents who came were very involved.
- Parent/teacher night yielded some interesting feedback which we are using to inform some programmatic changes.
- We've had students out for several successful field trips

Personnel

- 4 positions open:
    - Substitutes
    - Middle school math (PT)
    - Middle school TA
    - After school program

Foundation update

Recent activity

- Clothing Drive - October 20-21

Upcoming activity

- November:
    - Daily Cash Calendar sales start

        - Canned food drive
- December:
    - Scholastic Book Fair December
    - Movie Night TBD

Upcoming events

- Fill Your Cup in March
- Grandparents Day
- Reworking Hot Lunch program

Committee updates

Finance

- Committee will redo the budget in order to accept the grants
- Motion to approve 10/30 financials. AG motions to approve, PS Seconds. All in favor. No opposed.

Did not do other committee updates in order to discuss grant allocations

Policy Reviews

November: Sports related injuries

- Motion to approve Sports related injuries policy. AR motions to approve, AG Seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

December: Emergency care and first aid

Grants

- 550K total
- There are 2 periods from July 30, 2022 through September 30, 2025.
    - Planning period is 1 year which can go towards salaries, facilities.
        - Hiring a FT position as a STEAM integrator to start in January
    - Implementation period is 2 years starting August 2023; can't put in salaries, benefits, facilities - but that may be changed.
- Hiring a STEAM Interventionist
- Held brainstorm on how to apply the funds.

PS motions to adjourn. AG seconds. All agree. 7:48 PM meeting adjourned.