Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Date: March 15, 2022

Held at The Birches Academy

Present: Chair: Christie Storniolo (CES), Secretary: Alyssa Ross (AR), Treasurer: Michael Gendreau (MG), Debbie Kruzel (DK), Bob Hawkes (BH), Alexis Goldsack (AG)
Staff: Chris Smith (CDS), Erin Balfe (EB), Jessica Wachsman (via phone)
Regrets: Christine Miele (CM), Pamela Sarantis (PS)

CES called meeting to order at 5:37pm

General

Approval of minutes from February 15 regular meeting. AG motions to approve, MG seconds. All others in favor. None opposed.

Correspondence
- None

Upcoming events:
- April 6: ADD safety training for teachers from Windham PD; will have a parent meeting after that but timing TBD

Next meetings
- April 5: 5:30pm Finance committee
- April 12: 5:30pm Board
- May 3: 5:30pm Finance committee
- May 10: 5:30pm Board

General business
- Reviewed calendar for 2022-23. AR to tweak formatting and send to JW. AR motions to accept. AG seconds. All agree. None opposed.

School Highlight

5th grade teacher Alison Baldanado presented her approach to a flipped classroom. She feels this helps the students in math get more instruction time as they watch the lesson at home on video and then the students do an activity in class. Kids get immediate feedback on what they got right/wrong, and teachers can give extra support as needed. Half the kids work with her and the other half with the TA and then they swap. The kids also help 'teach the teacher' to demonstrate they understand the concepts, the steps and math vocabulary. She is continually

enhancing the technology and testing different approaches.This is going so well that she is adopting this into her literacy lessons as well. AB has seen great progress with the students, and she believes in part this is because they can go at their own pace in learning and rewatch videos as needed. She can also see how long a video is watched which can help her understand where challenges might lie with each student and/or tweak her teaching methods. She got the idea from Mr. Smith, but she is also working on a masters in technology so she is very open to learning and trying new things. AB is taking learnings to adapt the videos. Everything is on the classroom website so they can go back to review for tests, re-learning, etc. The Board had a lot of questions, all because they were excited about this innovation and potential.

Dean of School update

Enrollment

- 225 enrolled
- Wait list at 152
- Kindergarten for 2022-23; 25 admitted, 24 on waitlist

Events and Updates

- Pi Day held Monday, March 1; still limiting visitors so the event was small, but the students enjoyed it.
- Planning stages:
    - end of year musical celebration
    - fine arts night
    - field day; details and date to be determined.
- Have fingerprinted 10 designated volunteers; coming up with a volunteer training program
- Middle School trip to Washington DC April 19-22; students who stay back will be participating in field trips and in-school activities. CDS will be on the trip.
    - CES asked what the mask policy is and any impacts from COVID; EB said the group will follow the results of transportation, buildings, etc.as well as recommendation from the tour guides. Some parts of the trip are being modified to avoid crowds, etc. and some things may be ad hoc depending on rules, lines each day, etc.

Personnel

- One open position - TA for Kindergarten
    - Have received an application and are looking but it wouldn’t be until next year.

COVID Update

- Quarantine numbers - students and staff, currently at 1
- Results from the last two SASS tests were all negative
- Need to modify mask policy because after last Board meeting because State of NH came out with new guidance that says all mask decisions are through NH DHHS. Reviewed new addendum to reopening plan. DK motions to accept. AG seconds. All agree. None opposed. Plan has been posted on website.
- DK asked what % of kids are still wearing masks; CDS said it's 20-30%. Staff numbers are lower but are also situational. No mask 'shaming' has been reported.

Foundation update

Recent activity

- Dining For Dollars through Bertucci's March 9; raised $436

Upcoming events (some pending confirmation)

- April: Community Service Project - Birthday Wishes; collect items to create "Birthday Boxes"
- April: Special Friends Day, date TBD
- May: Clothing Drive drop off starts May 4 and ends May 5, 9 am.
- May 9-13: Teacher & Staff Appreciation week
- June: NH Day of Giving: June 7

Committee updates

Finance

- Reviewed February 28 budget v. actuals. Motion to accept period ending February 28. DK motions to approve, AG seconds. CES, BK, MG approve. AR abstains. None opposed.
- 2022-23 budget
  - Budget is currently 173K over income, Foundation goal is to offset - we know we are underfunded and this is why the Foundation exists
  - Cash on hand 150K estimated (does not factor in Foundation)
    - COVID grants can be spent through 2025
  - BH motions to into non-public per RSA 91-A:3, II (a), AG seconds.
    - Move into non-public at 7:48pm
  - BH motions to move out of non-public session and into public at 8:39pm. AG seconds. All in favor.
    - Vote to seal the minutes of the non-public session because *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of*

such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. BH motions to approve, AG seconds. All others in favor. None opposed.

- JW modified budget to based on nonpublic discussion. AG motions to approve the 2022-23 budget. DK seconds. All in favor. None opposed.

.***Outreach/Day of Giving***

- 10 year commemoration article published in Salem Life
- External Social Media going out more consistently now
- AR to focus on website changes in April
  - AR will create a new page on Foundation
- Day of Giving:
  - AH updating our NH Day of Giving web page; AR will review
  - AH/CM working on save the date postcards
  - Collecting Birches memories/appreciation postcards for display around school

Charter Renewal

- Application is due May 2
- Visit June 2; will ask Board and others to join

Curriculum

- We have a couple of teachers working on a plan for Social Emotional Learning curriculum, but we haven't solidified any plans yet.

Postponed discussions on Governance, Personnel, Facilities, Strategic Planning

Policy Reviews

March: none

Apri: TBD (will depend on charter renewal)

MG motions to adjourn. BH seconds. All agree. 8:47pm meeting adjourned.