



CHARTERED  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

# School Board Meeting

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## *Meeting Minutes*

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**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

Board Members Present: Thomas Frischknecht, Kim Lavalley, Patty Humphrey, Cathy Cullity,  
Richard Hyotte, Kevin Ahern, Lenka Steiger

Absent: Sarah Frischknecht

Public Attendance: Patrice Benard, Kristy Ouellette, Keith Lacasse, Kevin Harbison, Randall Cooper,  
Matt Southerton

The meeting was called to order at 4.10pm.

### **1. Public Comment Session-**

- Mrs. Patrice Benard:

--Asks to change the word "district" in all the policies. (Mr. Frischknecht explained The Founders Academy is a district (#401) and that we are not part of Manchester school district)

--Asks for the board meetings to be held in the evenings so more parents could attend.

-- (Policy BEDH) Feels people should be able to speak even if it is not on the agenda for that meeting.

-- Regarding Policy EEAA. Feels school shouldn't keep video surveillance as a part of students records. Students should be able to have a "second" chance in life.

-- Asked about the boards plans regarding configuration of the board and administration.

- Mr. Keith Lacasse:

--Seconds Mrs. Benard to move meeting times to later in the day.

--Recommends having a second public comment session at the end of the board meeting.

## **2. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

**\*\*Ms. Cullity motioned to approve December 2014 minutes. Mrs. Humphrey seconded. All members of board present voted unanimously to approve the minutes.\*\***

## **3. Board Business**

### **A. Board Chairman Comments:**

-- Informs board Mrs. Kate Baker resigned from her board seat via email in December.

### **B. Board Treasurer Comments:**

-- Starting to work on the budget for next year. Have data from last 6 months to work with and is hoping to have a draft version available soon.

-- School has 125 applications for new enrollment (Fall 2015). 71 of the applications are completed and submitted to the school. Mrs. Lavallee gave a very detailed report on how many applications for each grade. Deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Families will have to complete applications to be added to lottery spots (if open)/waiting list). The school is opening an additional 100 seats for next school year 2015-2016.

--Ms. Mote (English teacher) is in the process of planning a school trip to Washington DC in the spring. If approved by the board (because it is an overnight and out of state trip) she would be able to book the trip with SKI 93 TRIPS TOUR & TRAVEL. The agency specializes in school trips, comes with its own security and liability insurance is included. The agency gave a quote for \$429(per student) if 40 students would sign up (includes 4 chaperones). Mrs. Lavallee distributed to all attendees packet info.

**\*\* Mr. Ahern motioned that we approved the trip. Mr. Hyotte seconded the motioned. All members of board present voted unanimously to approve the trip.\*\***

## **4. Manchester Civil Air Patrol (CAP)**

--Lt. Col. Kevin Harbison and Capt. Randall Cooper approached The Founders Academy to partnership with them. They gave a very detailed presentation about CAP:

- .CAP history

- .Regions in USA and around the world

- .CAP Resources

- .National Emergency Services Academy

- .Cadet Programs (for kids 12-20 years old)

- .Career Exploration

- .Aerospace Education (access to CAP resources like telescopes, text books, flight simulators etc.)

- .School Enrichment Program

- .Community Services

--They are NOT recruiting for Air force or any other military services.

- They are seeking to bring Manchester squadron to TFA. Their meetings are every Thursday night from 6:30-9pm (even through the summer).
- They are self-insured
- As of now they have 35 cadets and 15 senior members. They need access to 2-3 rooms and 1 storage room/office.

Ms. Cullity asked if the school has room and Mr. Frischknecht informed all present that we do. He also pointed out that it would be a good fit for TFA and the CAP science program would benefit the school's science program. He also pointed out that ASD (Academy for Science and Design) has a positive relationship with the local CAP in Nashua.

**\*\* Mr. Hyotte motioned to approve for Civil Air Patrol to partnership with The Founders Academy. Mr. Ahern seconded. All members of board present voted unanimously to approve. \*\***

Mr. Frischknecht asked for any communication between the school and the CAP is done between him and Capt. Cooper only. He also pointed out for the squadron to wait until the middle of February to move in.

The board members expressed an interest for CAP having an open house for the school students and their parents.

## **5. Directors Report**

A. Christmas dinner for the faculty was well received.

B. Building Status

-- Construction will be done by the end of January and the school will receive keys to the whole building. The school has been moving classrooms around to make it all work before all the construction is complete.

--NorthPoint offered to finish TFA's library. -- The value of labor and material is between \$15k-20k. The library will also work as a study hall and will have a place for tutors to work with students.

C. Changing the Bell Schedule:

--F Period Study Hall gone

--The school required a P/T teacher for computer class for 1 day a week until end of school year.

D. Budget planning

--The goal is to have a budget plan done by the end of the month. Hiring season for next school year is done around the March – April timeframe. Ms. Cullity asked about bonuses and extra money for the teachers. Annual income for a teacher in a charter school is \$35k-\$45k. In the long term the board would like to see it go up but at this point the school just doesn't have the money. It was also discussed there is currently no healthcare benefit plan for TFA employees. TFA has been working hard to find a possible health plan that would work.

E. TFA Times Newspaper

--all the attendees were presented with a first print of the school newspaper created by the students. Ms. Mote sponsors the journalist club.

#### F. Public relations

--US Sen. Rand Paul visited the school last week. A picture of him being interviewed by the school newspapers journalists became national news. TFA was visited by press from all over the country (like CNN, FOX News, NBC, Wall Street Journal etc.) during the Senators visit.

--There was an incident on bus #4. Since it happened on the bus and not in the school disciplinary measures are being handled by the Manchester School District, who employs the bus driver.

-- Mr. Frischknecht and Ms. Mooney were interviewed on NH Today.

--Congressman Frank Guinta is interested in coming to visit TFA next week.

#### 6. Committee Reports

a. Finance – in process of discussing the general budget.

b. Policy – did not meet this month. Draft policies will be posted on the website

--Ms. Cullity and Mrs. Humphry asked for Surveillance Video policy (EEAA) to be reviewed again. The policy was previously approved by the board. It was tabled for further consideration.

--Second Reading:

BBAA – Board Member Authority

BBA –School Board Powers and Duties

BEAA – School Board Meeting Preparation

BEC – Non-Public Session

BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings

BG – Board Policy Process

KEB – Public Complaints About School Personnel, Employees, Students or Administration

Changes in policy BEAA has been made since previous reading regarding in how many days in advance should board members be provided with data for their next meeting. It was change from 4 days to 7 days. All board members agreed to withhold policy BEDH due to public comments earlier in the meeting.

**\*\* Mr. Hyotte motioned to approve all policies (BBAA, BBA, BEAA, BEC, BG, KEB) but one (BEDH). Ms. Cullity seconded. All members of board present voted unanimously to approve. \*\***

c. Outreach

--Mr. Hyotte gave a quick overview on ideas for fundraisers.

.Annual fund pledge

.TFA Cookbook

.Spring Golf tournament

.Silent Actions

.Grant Writing

--Stonyfield is interested in working with TFA offering teaching programs for students (field trips) They also offered a spot for TFA during their spring Earth Day 5k run) Fee for that spot is \$100.

--The outreach committee is reaching out to both political parties for school invites.

--Congressman Frank Guinta expressed an interest in visiting school and will be coming next week.

--Mr. Hyotte contacted local BOSE company regarding PA system and a possible donation.

--Comedy night was mentioned as a possible fund raiser.

-- Outreach committee expressed interested for another open house to present different possibilities for fund raising. Also it would be a great opportunity for TFA families to see the rest of the building when it is finished.

**Motion to adjourn at 5:55pm.**