



CHARTERED
PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2015

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

Public Attendance: Bob Morville, Susan Lawton, Lisa Moore, Maria Bechis, Joelle Henry, Stacey Weigler, Patrice Benard

The meeting was called to order at 4 PM.

1. Public Comment Session – No sign-ups for public comments

2. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

***** Mr. Hyotte motioned to approve February 2014 board minutes. Ms. Cullity seconded. All voted in favor.*****

3. Board Business

A. Board Chair Comments:

Board Member – Ms. Cathy Cullity has informed the board chair that she is resigning from the board effective end April 12, 2015. Ms. Cullity is a founding member and part of the The Founders Academy Foundation board and much committed to the success of TFA. The board is thanking her for her service rendered and wishes her well.

B. Treasurer Report:

i. 2015/16 Budget Proposal was presented.

-- A comparison table was presented comparing this year and next.

-- The TFA Foundation has been paying all utilities and tied the cost into the monthly rent. Next year, the school will pay utilities directly to the utilities providers. A NNN-lease will be implemented for next fiscal year that defines these responsibilities.

***** Ms. Cullity motioned to approve the budget proposal. Mrs. Steiger seconded. Majority voted in favor. Mrs. Lavallee & Mr. Hyotte abstained. *****

4. Director's Report:

A. Operations: -- Greenhouse construction will begin this week.

-- Administration is "shutting down" heating and cooling in rooms not yet in use to save on utility costs.

-- Mayor Gatsas and assistant visited the school and seemed impressed. He was asked if he would support a tax exemption for TFA. He indicated he was open to that but that this is a matter for the tax office and he will delegate. Following that, the process has begun to petition for property tax exemption. Tax assessors were out to assess the building.

B. Faculty & Staff:

i. Courses Offered = See attached course plan draft

Discussion about the new Writing Labs for next year's 6th and 7th grade classes. It has been identified that many students are in need of basic grammar and writing skills, more than anticipated. Concern was raised by Mr. Ahern that current 7th & 8th graders who may need this class will miss out. The schedule will be reviewed to see what can be done to address this concern.

***** Motion to approve the course plan as presented by Mr. Hyotte. Mr. Ahern seconded. All board members present voted in favor. *****

ii. 2015/16 Personnel/Staffing Plan – See attached plan

***** Mr. Ahern motioned to approve the faculty/staff plan. Mrs. Humphrey seconded. Majority voted in favor. Mrs. Lavallee & Mr. Hyotte abstained. *****

5. School Calendar = DOE software experiencing problems and calendar could not be uploaded. Once it has been uploaded and accepted by DOE, the calendar will be presented to the board next month. School calendar is tabled.

D. Committee Reports:

i. Finance Committee:

Budget 2015/2015: We still have money that can be drawn down from the grant money. We have a plan to cover the deficit for next year.

ii. Policies Committee:

The policies are posted online for public reference.

First Reading: BCA, EHB, BAA, BHC, BBBF, BBBG, IMBD, GCO, BEDA

***** Motion for a consent vote to move all these policies (from first reading) forward to second reading by Mr. Hyotte . Ms. Cullity seconded. All board members voted in favor. *****

Second Reading: ADC, BEA, BEDH, BGB, C, EEAG, GBED, GBJ

***** Motion for a consent vote to approve and adopt BEA, BEDH, BGB, C, EEAG, GBJ by Mr. Hyotte . Ms. Cullity seconded. All board members present voted in favor. (Mrs. Lavallee is absent.) *****

***** Motion for a consent vote to approve and adopt ADC and GBED by Mr. Ahern. Mr. Hyotte seconded. Four board members present voted in favor. Three board members voted against. Mrs. Lavallee was absent. Policies are adopted. *****

Immediate Reading: JIA, JICD, JICDD, JLDBA, JIC.

Mrs. Humphrey expressed concern that many of these policies regarding the students are too wordy. She would like to see simpler policies, more generally worded, so that they are not so restrictive.

Mr. Ahern and Mr. Hyotte expressed the need to have policies in place now which will define the disciplinary procedure and the board's role. These policies need to be voted on immediately, before any discipline situation would be escalated to the board. Ms. Cullity noted that these policies are probably long overdue. It will still be possible in the future to rewrite policies in the Policy Committee and present new revisions for another vote to the board, if amendments or re-wording is desired. Mrs. Humphrey was invited to attend the Policy committee's meetings.

***** Motion for a consent vote to approve and adopt JIA, JICD, JICDD, JLDBA, JIC by Mr. Hyotte . Ms. Cullity seconded. Six board members voted in favor. One board member voted against and one member abstained. Policies are adopted. *****

iii. Outreach Committee:

- Annual Fund letters were sent out. Good response so far.
- Family Day (School event/fundraiser) is scheduled for end of year (June 5) —games, auction, food, etc. Mr. Ahern suggested having a table set up about summer school options to help encourage enrollment.
- Mr. Hyotte working on getting dates for fundraisers, open houses and events on the public calendar.
- Mr. Hyotte will be making a make-shift modular stage for the school to use for presentations, band, chorus, etc.

E. Next Board Meeting: 4/15/15

*****Motion to adjourn at 5:50 PM . All board members voted in favor. *****

Respectfully submitted by: Sarah Frischknecht, Board Secretary