

The Founders Academy **School Board Meeting Minutes**



September 19th, 2016

Board members present:

Richard Hyotte, Lenka Steiger, Kim Lavallee, Brenda Lombardozzi,
Sharon Carson

Absent:

Patty Humphrey

Ex-Officio Board Members Present:

Maureen Mooney, Mr. Kline

Public Attendance:

The meeting was called to order at 4PM.

1) Public Comments

Mrs. Bernard: Concerned about the science syllabus and Next Gen Standards. Believes the school was set up with higher standards and we should adhere to what is best for the school.

Asked the question, “What is a Classical Education?” and why use Common Core if we don’t need to. She believes classical, primary sources should be use at Founders. Science program needs to bring back to classical education.

Mr. DiPietro,

Concern out the school science program. Grateful for the school so far. The Next Generation standards don't line up with the school mission. Second concern about the project based programs. Antithetical. He believes it teaches everyone is equal and the burden falls on a few students to carry the group while everyone receives the same grade.

Mr. Girard.

He has reviewed Next Generation as a Manchester parent and board member. Does not believe in teaching global warming as fact and thinks it's the wrong direction. He did not send his daughter to his school for something she can get in regular public school. Tf Founders is deviating from what he understood is the original mission he is very upset. He also was upset to see the syllabus after school opened.

2) Review and Approval of Minutes from August Board Meeting

**Mrs. Lavallee motioned to approve August minutes. Mrs. Lombardozi second.
All voted in favor.****

3) Board Business:

- Annual Audit Review/Presentation

Going right into the audit presentation by Nathan Wechsler (Accountants and Business advisors.

All the board members received a copy of the audit presentation. This is their 3rd year doing the audit for the school and the foundation. Great audit no issues. This was a clean audit. They would like us at some point to get a CPA to do our books.

(Donations have potential to be an issue they look into in depth.

- Audit Objectives and Status
- Results of Our Audit

Their audits focuses on area that are considered risky (revenue recognition, start-up grant and contributions. (page 3)

- Results (page 4)

Ms. Kim W. resign from the board.

Mr. Hyotte asked for motion to accept the motion

Carson, mrs. L. Second. All in favor.

- Discussion regarding future overnight trips/field trips should be run through a 3rd party trip planner. 2 main reasons are:
 - 1. Insurance, A third party are fully insured.
 - 2. These types of trips are a big drain on resources of the administration.

Mr. Kline points out that in the future if the school clubs might compete at the higher level the school should take care of it.

Ratify email vote: For a short-term, zero interest loan to be paid immediately upon receive of Per Pupil Aid check in September.

- Motion to approve by Ms. Carson, second by Mrs. Lavallee, all in favor.

4) Dean's Report :

1. **Admissions:** Admissions is open for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Lavallee is handling all the admissions this year.
2. **Beginning of the New School Year:** School opened with 302 students on September 6 with Middle and High School Opening ceremonies on September 7.
3. **6th Grade Orientation Subcommittee:** The 6th Grade Orientation Subcommittee chaired by Mrs. Barlow did a fantastic job preparing incoming students.
4. **Bus Safety Protocol:** Safety assurances are in place for the instance a child gets off the bus at the wrong stop.
5. **Back to School Night and Parent Portal Training:** The Back to School Night and Parent Portal Training took place on September 8.
6. **Faculty Updates:** Curriculum Coordinator, Chris Kline was elected the new faculty representative on the Board of Trustees.
7. **Role of Curriculum Coordinator:** The Curriculum Coordinator is charged with a host of items including aligning curriculum with the school's mission, auditing syllabi, updating course descriptions, and other charges related to **The Founding Fathers' Character and Leadership Curriculum.**
8. **Teacher Communication with Students:** A guide for the uses of the portal, Google classroom, email and web site has been issued to assist with teacher/student communications.
9. **In the Words of Students:** The web site has a new feature to highlight student thoughts on the school.

- 10. Committee and Department Overview:** Scheduling Committee(Mr. MacKenzie), Safety Committee (Mrs. Lavallee), Curriculum Committee (Mr. VanEwyck), Department Chairmen, Department meetings, full faculty meetings (Mr. Kline).
- 11. Dissection Kit:** The equipment for a science dissection kit was fully funded through Donors Choose.
- 12. High School Privileges:** This year high school privileges include lunch outdoors, early dismissal, and the creation of a Student Senate. (Mr. Van Ewyk, Ms, Henry, Mrs. Humphrey)
- 13. THANK YOU:** Forty wooden desks and chairs were recently donated to the school formerly from Andover; and an Outreach Committee meeting held on September 13.

5) Treasurer's Report:

The financial audit for the 2015-2016 fiscal year was presented and needs to be voted on.

Mrs. Steiger motioned to approve the audit, Mr. Hyotte provided a second, all in favor.

6) Faculty Report :

- Mr. Kline is happy to be representing Founders faculty.
- 16 new teachers this years.
- Learning curve with new teachers.
- All the syllabus are submitted to website
- Mr. Kline is in process auditing all syllabi and course descriptions, will present at
October board meeting.
- Addressed comments regarding curriculum and Common Core.

7) Committee Reports:

- **Outreach:**
- Mrs. L. 1st meeting last week. Main focus of the meeting was vendor craft fair coming up in October. Generated \$1500 so far. As of now they are looking for volunteers.
- FB as main publicity for the fair along with flyers and banners.
- Script program (will be announced before xmas shopping)
- Parents interested in running restaurant fundraisers. November 3rd, texas road house on South Willow street.
- Annual fund will start (over \$22000 last year) looking for high participation from all parents in Founders community.

8) Next Meeting Oct. 19,2016 at 4p

Mr. Hyotte asked for motion to adjourn.

**** Mrs. Carson motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Lavallee second. All voted in favor.****

Meeting closed at 5:15 pm.