



The Founders Academy

March 21, 2018 5:30 pm Board Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance - Matt Mercier

Moment of Silence - Matt Mercier

Present: Matt Mercier, Patty Humphrey, Kim Lavalley, Kristi Scarpone, Robert Best, Barbara Comtois, Kristy Ouellette, Susan Lawton, Maureen Mooney, Michael Gaumont

Absent: Liam Childers

1) Public Comments 5:30pm

1. Patrice Benard: In Mrs. Benard's opinion, there is a treasurer's report being offered on tonight's agenda with no previous finance committee meeting; the budget cannot be revised without vote of the board. There is an item on curriculum changes but there was no curriculum committee meeting so you cannot take action on that. There was no Policy Committee meeting so you cannot take action on the policy item either. The Dean's activities yesterday are not listed in her report, where she spoke in Concord against two parents being elected to a board of trustees; the board should be informed of things like this and take a vote if she is going to do so.
2. Mr. Douglas: Concerns if the policy committee met without proper notice to discuss the Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members. Concern about a closed session meeting held by the Parent Steering Committee, if it was done properly. Some concerns that charter schools are fragile, and vulnerable to Concord. Now that we're in this review stage before the charter renewal, concerned about the negativity on various Facebook pages. Does not believe the people making these statements are representing the whole school and are damaging the school and charter schools in general. Hopes addressing the roles and responsibilities might address that as he is concerned about these types of statements.

2) Review and Approval of Minutes from February Board Meeting

1. February 21, 2018 (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/NWWFP9>)
2. Matt Mercier proposes motion to approve minutes, Barbara Comtois motions, Kristi Scarpone seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.

3) Faculty Report: (Reference: <https://goo.gl/3Y5zjd>) 5:40pm

1. Michael Gaumont presents.

4) Student Trustee Report

1. Student Rep. absent, no report.

5) Dean's Report: (Reference: <https://goo.gl/BcRnAR>) 5:45pm

1. Dean Mooney presents.
2. Notes on Student restorative discipline committee: in this committee students mediate appropriate issues between students, and every interaction has to be approved by a guidance counselor, dean, parents, etc. Dean invites Mrs. Humphrey to elaborate.
 - a. Mrs. Humphrey: no issues are dealt with that involve deep character issues or serious problems, but small everyday issues that occur between students. We observed that it worked in Pittsfield, and it fits in well with our mission, developing character and leadership, developing responsibility for actions, learning to be mediators, dealing with issues, etc. There is always a consequence based on what actually happened/related to that, not simply detention or expulsion. Again, it only deals with minor issues that don't violate confidentiality. There are a lot of people that have to go along with it before we start, and I hope that we are given a chance. The students have been trained, and are eager to get going.

6) Treasurer's Report (Reference: <https://goo.gl/S4RZ69>)

1. Kim Lavalley presents.
2. Susan Lawton motions to accept the report, Kristy Ouellette seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.

7) Board Business: 5:55pm

1. Admissions Report
 - a. current academic year new student transfers (Sept. 6, 2017- March 21, 2018) - 31
 - b. Admissions acceptance letters - 101 sent to students and parents as of March 20th, 70 students accepted.
 - c. Placement test dates - March 10th and March 24th
2. Parent Steering Committee
 - a. Matt Mercier reads: The Founders Academy has fulfilled the charter requirement of a Parent Steering Committee, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on November 29, 2017. The former chairman, Richard Hyotte, was present at the meeting and the caucus of the PSC held December 15, 2017, at 6:00pm. It is our understanding that the newly formed board committee voted to accept Patrice Benard as the chairman of the committee. She was then inappropriately appointed by the former Board chair Richard Hyotte as the committee chair during the PSC meeting, not at the Board of Trustees public meeting. The Committee is charged with nominating parent board members and acting as a vehicle for communication between the Director, Board of Trustees, parents, and teachers. It has been brought to our attention that the policy approved on November 29, 2017, clearly indicates Mrs. Benard may not serve as the

committee chair as this role requires a voting seat on the Board of Trustees. As of this evening, March 21, 2018, Mrs. Benard will no longer be the committee chair. In addition to requiring the committee chair be a parent member of the Board of Trustees, several concerns regarding conduct not conducive to promoting the mission and vision of the school has been brought to the attention of the board. (Mr. Mercier made the choice not to read these publically due to the nature of the comments.) Mrs. Ouellette at this moment is appointed the PSC Chairman and will serve out the remaining term as the PSC Chairman until the end of the school year in June, 2018.

3. Humanities Curriculum Update: (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/o5E8HB>) 6:03pm
 - a. Mr. Kline presents.
 - b. Changes to scope and sequence of humanities are being presented. Mr. Kline, Ms. Mote, and Mr. Gaumont have been working on this since last year, and the Curriculum Committee approved these changes.
 - i. These changes are focused in English and History and would involve adding classes on Logic and Rhetoric and a high school writing class, as well as other things.
4. Policies
 - a. Matt Mercier: The policy committee will be chaired by Matt Mercier and a public meeting will be announced/posted before the April Board meeting.

8) New Business:

1. none

9) Non Public /Executive Session:

1. none

10) Next Meeting April 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM

1. Patty Humphrey motions to adjourn, Kristi Scarpone seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes. (~6:20pm)