

Board of Directors – FSAS | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 2/28/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting location FSAS, Gray, ME

Meeting called by Alison Moser, Chair
Type of meeting Regular Meeting
Facilitator Alison Moser, Chair
Secretary Alyson Spencer-Reed,
Secretary

Attendees:
Alison Moser, Chair
Adam Gilman, Vice Chair
Alyson Spencer-Reed, Secretary
Kathleen Clements, Board
Melanie Prinz, Board
Sally Morris, Board

Also Present:
Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Executive Director
Joanna Frankel, Coord. of Teaching & Learning

Meeting called to order at pm.

AGENDA TOPICS

Review of Minutes

Motion to Accept January 31st, 2017 Minutes by S. Morris.

2nd by M. Prinz.

Motion passed 6-0.

Education Assessment Data Report | J. Frankel & Ed. Committee

Presented results of last spring's MEA testing in the 3rd and 4th grade and this year's Iowa Test of Basic Skills in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Our 3rd and 4th grade combined results for the MEAs in literacy were on par with the reported results for the State of Maine; for math ours were slightly below state results. However, in both literacy and math, Fiddlehead's % of students scoring above state expectations was higher than the state average. These results are at or very slightly below the targets we set in our school charter.

Our Iowa test results fall in (somewhat significantly) higher national percentiles than the MEAs do statewide, which raises some question as to the validity of the MEA tests.

Overall, Fiddlehead follows the national trend of stronger scores in ELA than math. The school has plans for increased professional development in math as well as increasing time spent with math both in and out of the classroom.

Joanna suggests that the test results may best be utilized in individual student progress monitoring and goal setting.

Maine has not yet released individual students' results for last spring and our families have not yet seen their children's results.

Executive Directors' Report | J. Cotton-Castro

Reviewed and discussed written report and listened to the following highlights:

The board's Fiddlehead visit will be earlier this year than last – 4/27, likely 2:00-6:00 pm.

Our 5-year charter renewal package is due 9/30 – board chair suggests we add a July board meeting to work on preparing those materials. Members agreed. July 18th 6pm added to the meeting schedule.

Construction update: there had been an issue with a contractor not paying a subcontractor, but it now seems to be on its way to resolution.

We have collaborated with other schools to submit a grant proposal for Services & Savings cost sharing for consultants and equipment.

We have been approved in round 2 of the New Schools Invent grant process! Moving on to Step 3: interview. This is a planning grant for new programs; we are considering the possibility of a second site in the future if this grant comes through.

Governance Committee Report | A. Spencer-Reed

Alyson has made contact with two possible candidates for board membership. One does not match the board's needs at the moment and is happy to wait until we have a need he can fill. The other does fit our needs at the moment and Alyson has been corresponding with her to begin the process, starting with an informal one-on-one meeting.

Motion to nominate Melanie as interim Treasurer through June 2017 by K. Clements.

2nd S. Morris.

Motion passed 6-0.

Finance Committee Report | A. Moser

Reviewed written Treasurer's report.

Fiscal Year 2017-18 estimated per-pupil spending rates have been announced; slightly lower overall than it was for this current school year, but slightly higher for special ed students.

For the past 3 years, we have paid a 3% fee to the MDOE. This fiscal year's portion of that fee is going to be waived, amounting to somewhere between \$35k and \$45k.

Finance committee will send members a proposed budget and narrative next week for review and consideration in preparation of the budget workshop on 3/11.

Personnel Committee Report | A. Moser

No report; meeting was rescheduled due to snow.

Policy Review | J. Cotton-Castro

Hiring policy review: discussed adding the fingerprinting & criminal records check policy to the existing recruitment & hiring policy (rather than writing & approving a separate policy). Agreed to make this change and crafted wording. Revised Recruitment & Hiring Policy will be presented at next meeting for approval.

Other Business | J. Cotton-Castro

Commission Annual visit is scheduled for 4/27 2:00-6:00 pm: committee reports will be required; Jacinda will email all members with specifications. The 2:00-6:00 time block may include the administration's meeting as well.

The board, administration, and teaching staff recently received an email from a parent regarding how welcoming our school is/would be to transgender students. The education committee had already identified a consultant to work with the school on designing an appropriate curriculum for diversity & identity, and the COTL and Ed Committee will be meeting with her soon. Members discussed the need for an anti-discrimination policy. Decided to convene an ad hoc committee to draft this and some sort of statement expressing our inclusive & welcoming philosophy.

Discussed protocol for response to correspondence from community members to full board: board members will discuss internally and only the president will reply. She will make every attempt to reply promptly with at least an acknowledgment of receipt of the correspondence.

For next meeting: Governance committee to re-read bylaws and recommend any revisions to full board at next meeting.

PEPG (Performance Evaluation and Professional Growth) review of ED coming up for next meeting.

Public Comment |

None.

Executive Sessions |

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:47 pm by S. Morris

2nd M. Prinz

Motion passed 6-0.