

Board of Directors – FSAS | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 6/12/2017 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

Attendees:

Alison Moser, Chair

Adam Gilman, Vice Chair

Alyson Spencer-Reed, Secretary

Melanie Prinz, Board

Sally Morris, Board

Also Present:

Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Executive Director

Excused:

Kathleen Clements, Board

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm.

AGENDA TOPICS

Introduction of Board Member candidates

Penny Collins – daughter in 3rd grade, was in Center Preschool before the Charter School started up. Founding PTO parent. Led an after-school Explorer Club one school year, has volunteered a lot. Interested in how we grow and stay true to our philosophy and stay mission-based after our first 4 years of growth. Also interested in how small organizations grow into larger ones.

Bill Doughty – Grandfather to Sophie, just finishing grade one, and Endelyn, who is in the Fiddlestarts class at the Center. Has been on a lot of field trips. Worked in public ed for 30 years in ME & WI. Fascinated by what happens here at Fiddlehead and our approach – so different from what the traditional public school approach has been. Believes a culture needs to be built in the minds & hearts of teachers, students, and parents in order for the Reggio Emilia philosophy to be successful. Was once opposed to Charter schools and now is supportive. Interested in the transition from a small, creative endeavor to an institution. Has seen wonderful things happen with his grandchild during her time here at Fiddlehead.

Brief Board member intros – Alyson, Melanie, Adam, Alison, Sally, Jacinda.

Review of Minutes

Motion to Accept May 16th, 2017 Minutes by A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by Melanie Prinz

Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Directors' Report | J. Cotton-Castro

Reviewed written report.

Brief discussion of classroom numbers for next year being lower than budgeted.

Diversity Committee Report | A. Spencer-Reed

Presented parent/community statement for website for board consideration. Feedback – possibly pare it down a bit? Ask Joanna to show to teachers and make sure they feel comfortable with it before it rolls out.

Governance Committee Report | A. Spencer-Reed

None.

Finance Committee Report | A. Moser

Reviewed financial reports and Barbara's written Committee report.

The building needs some improvements and the School shares these expenses with the Center.

Have drafted an MOU with the Center for more detail on how maintenance costs are shared. Likely to be presented for Board approval in August.

Will not be contracting special ed services through Woodford's in the future – will hire in-house and bill MaineCare directly. This will change our SEED payments going forward.

Progress on bus search: still looking at buying a brand-new bus. Have applied for financing with Androscoggin Bank. If we place the order soon, we'll have the new bus in August.

Jacinda has obtained 3 proposals for the play yard improvements – first was extremely high. Second turns out to be too busy and can't do the job. Third is \$9150 plus materials; may not cover quite 100% of what we had hoped for, but it includes a great deal of it. The proposal isn't quite complete.

Intercom system – JCC emailed Board quotes a couple of weeks ago.

Motion to authorize payment from General fund of year-end CAM debt, estimated at \$8074, in full to Center before July 1 by A. Gilman

2nd by M. Prinz

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to authorize transfer of up to \$18,000 from Reserve account to General fund for down payment on a new bus in July or August by M. Prinz

2nd by S. Morris

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to transfer \$10,600 from CIP account to General fund for playground upgrades in July by S. Morris

2nd by M. Prinz

Discussion: Need to know more about the additional costs before we go with the proposal. Suggestion to break it into phases so some work is complete by September so the yard is usable. Why is the Center not sharing the cost of the playground project? Strong recommendation to talk to the Center and ask for cost sharing. Is our priority starting sooner, or having the right proposal and cost? Ask for new proposal just for the first phase (topsoil, erosion control) and continue looking for a better proposal for the rest.

Motion to amend the motion on the floor to transfer an amount up to \$10,600 for phase I of the playground improvement work per revised proposal to be obtained by Jacinda by S. Morris

2nd by A. Gilman

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to transfer up to \$9000 from CIP account to General fund for intercom purchase and installation this summer by A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by S. Morris

Motion passed 5-0.

Personnel Committee Report | A. Moser

None.

Education Committee Report | A. Gilman

There have been 3 staff-board get-togethers this spring. Stakeholders' gathering, values workshop, Reggio discussion. Thinking of doing the stakeholders' meeting closer to the beginning of the year in the future. Need better pacing next year – perhaps something on a quarterly basis. Take-away from the Reggio workshop was that our teachers LOVE working here, and they are recognizing a need to reconcile our Reggio-based approach with the demands placed on us as a public school in Maine. Values workshop wasn't what we expected it to be and we intend to determine how to redirect that work to accomplish what we had hoped to accomplish in the first place.

Other Business | A. Moser

Could we start our 7/18 meeting at 5:00 instead of 6:00 to accommodate the joint meeting with the Center Board? We all can. Alison to confirm with Center Board that this time works.

Considering changing meetings from Tuesday evenings to Saturday mornings; schedule of meetings proposed. Will make final decision at next meeting.

Public Comment |

None

Executive Sessions

Motion to enter executive session to discuss Executive Director evaluation, permitted by ME Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, §405, 6. A. (1), by A. Gilman

2nd by A. Spencer-Reed

Motion passed 5-0.

Entered 7:49 pm, exited 8:12 pm.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel recommendations for next school year, permitted by ME Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, §405, 6. A. (1), by A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by A. Gilman

Motion passed 5-0.

Entered 8:14 pm, exited 9:00 pm.

Motion to approve slate of personnel changes as presented by Jacinda in Executive Session – A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by S. Morris

Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss appointment of new Board member, permitted by ME Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, §405, 6. A. (1), by A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by M. Prinz

Motion passed 5-0.

Entered 9:01 pm, exited 9:14 pm.

Motion to elect both Penny Collins and Bill Doughty as new Board members by S. Morris

2nd by A. Spencer-Reed

Motion passed 5-0

Officer Elections | A. Moser

Votes submitted by paper ballot.

Slate elected unanimously.

Officers for 2017-2018 year:

Chair – Alison Moser

Vice Chair – Kassy Clements

Treasurer – Melanie Prinz

Secretary – Alyson Spencer-Reed

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:25 pm by A. Spencer-Reed

2nd by A. Moser

Motion passed 5-0.