

Board of Directors – FSAS MINUTES

06.12.2021

Approved 8.12.2021

Meeting date, time 06/12/2021, 9:00am | Meeting location: Fiddlehead School, In-Person

Meeting called by William Doughty, Chair Attendees:

Type of meeting Regular Meeting

Facilitator William Doughty,
Chair

Secretary Carolyn Beem,
secretary

Bill Doughty, Chair
Sally Morris Vice Chair
Carolyn Beem, Secretary
Penny Collins, Board member
Doug Lynch, Board member
Vincent Micale, Board member
Melanie Prinz, Board member

Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM

Quorum of 7 present at start of meeting

Also Present: Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Executive Director

Additional Attendees: Bobbie Pollard, Business Manager

Potential New Board Members: Susan Doughty, Joe Mattos, Kimberly Allen

Excused: Ben Kramer, Treasurer

AGENDA TOPICS

Public Comment: None

Approval of May 15, 2021 Minutes:

Motion to approve: Sally

Second: Penny

Discussion: None
Approved: 7:0

Executive Director Report

Gratitude and thanks to the Board and Staff for a difficult year. Great to celebrate all that has been accomplished. Close to 15 new people joined the staff team this past year, including a couple of new positions. JCC shared details of the wonderful close-of-year celebration.

Highlights of plans for the rest of this year as well as summer plans.

Election of New and Continuing Board members

Fiddlehead is pleased to welcome three new Board members:

Susan Doughty

Joe Mattos

Kimberly Allen

Motion to approve slate of new Board members for 2021/2022: Carolyn

Second: Sally

Discussion: None

Motion Approved: 7

New candidates in effect July 2021

Motion to approve Carolyn Beem continuing on for a one-year extension: Sally

Second: Penny

Discussion: None

Motion Approved: 6:0 (1 abstains)

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report

Melanie provided Financial Reports and highlights:

Strong financial positioning; loan on the bus has been paid off

Discussion: long range planning for financials including salaries.

Update on FY 20-21 budget

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Sally

Second: Doug

Discussion: None

Motion Approved: 7:0

Permission for Summer Hiring

Consider allowing the Executive Director to offer open positions to viable candidates over the summer, with hires to be confirmed at a later Board meeting.

Motion to approve Executive Director's hiring: Sally

Second: Melanie

Discussion: None

Motion Approved: 7:0

Board Self-Evaluation: Board Norms and Protocols

Review areas of strength and those needing improvement in our work this year.

Discussion:

Positives:

Responsive on policy changes; including public policy issues at the state level

Nimble in responding to needs of Executive Director; strong support for the ED

Focus on financial strength

Focus on the child

Process is solid; Board meetings well run

From a parent perspective focus on emotional and academic well-being of child well executed; hiring of social worker well timed

Culture is strong; well-run school with committed staff; exemplary practices to be shared with other schools

People are invited to share; respectful; focus on safety paramount; adaptability particularly in a challenging year

Finances strong - which supports the mission of the school

Improvements:

Need to maintain a focus on teacher compensation

Collaborating with other schools - we have so much to share as well as receive

Continue focus on health care

Looking forward to refocusing on education committee; understanding inputs as well as outputs - how are we achieving our mission; teaching kids how to think

Transportation

Building - facilities improvement

Post Covid world - get back on track with thinking and improving

Longer term planning - enrollment; facilities; financial planning

Restart the Diversity Committee; equity

Deepening and Strengthening - had the 10 year renewal, now to the eighth grade

Education and outreach to 'get the message out' as to what a Charter School is

Need a Board retreat

Board recruitment

Maintaining a delineation between board's focus on long-range planning and less administrative

Update on Summer Facilities Plan

Summer projects:

1. Window replacement
2. Possible back wall replacement
3. Clean, paint parking lot
4. Assessment of septic system (not necessarily for summer)

Thanks and appreciation to Outgoing Board Members

Executive Director and Board extended thanks and gratitude to our four departing Board members:

Vince Micale
Melanie Prinz
Penny Collins
William Doughty

Calendar Items/Reminder

Representatives of MCSC will meet with FS staff/Board on August 12

Personnel Items

Motion to enter Executive Session(s): 405.6.A to discuss personnel matters: 11:06 AM

*Motion by: Carolyn
Seconded: Melanie
Discussion: None
Motion passed: 7:0*

Motion to exit Executive Session(s): 405.6.A 11:20 AM

*Motion by: Carolyn
Seconded by: Penny
Motion passed: 7-0*

Motion to approve Executive Director's hiring recommendations as discussed in Executive Session: Penny

*Seconded: Doug
Discussion: None
Motion passed: 7:0*

Other Items/Closing

Meeting Evaluation: Board norms and protocols

Next meeting: (regular meeting) in-person August 12, time TBD

*Motion to adjourn: Doug
Seconded: Vin
Passed 7:0*

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM