

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

Sept. 20, 2023, 6 pm Wednesday at Fiddlehead School and via Zoom

- I. Call to Order – Quorum** The meeting was called to order with three members present.
- II. Present:** Ben Kramer, Susan Doughty, Bill Doughty. Marie Reimensnyder joined at 6:20.
 - A. Staff present: Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Exec. Dir.; Jason Manjourides, principal.
- III.** Ben volunteered and read the mission of Fiddlehead School
- IV.** There was no public Comment
- V.** Comments about what's good at Fiddlehead:
 - A. How well new students are adjusting to the school community.
 - B. Title VI will be \$28,000 instead of \$22,000
 - C. Social justice and climate studies lenses are well supported
 - D. Even in times of staffing difficulty, people find Fiddlehead
 - E. Two students report enjoying the school start and the new people in their class.
- VI.** Ben moved and Susan seconded to approve the minutes from Aug. 17, 2023. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- VII.** Executive Director's Report
 - A. Great start feels different that last year and improved
 - B. Fantastic new people including Jason and others
 - C. RTI new space was effective and cost effective; not so crowded
 1. Have the break room back.
 - D. Working on school wide goals
 - E. After school enrichment now enrolls 18 students; hoping for more
 - F. First fund-raising event is Saturday Sept. 30; Fiddlehead etched glass for attendees
 1. Jacinda will do paella for 6
 2. Bill will do eggplant, pecorino and wine.
 3. Invite your friends
 - G. Working on marketing, goals, and grants
 - H. Questions/comments on the report
 1. Should we follow up on bus policy? See if it's working.
 - a) Now in Jason's job description
 2. Yurt update:
 - a) Not up due to the contractor wanting to change layout but we already agreed with the town to do it as laid out for code.
 - b) Hopeful for yurt raising to save and celebrate
 3. Staff room/and library question: Take to Jacinda first
 4. Enrollment stats: 196 enrolled; 18 in after care
 5. Marie asks to receive enrollment per grade
 6. Teamwork with Jacinda and Jason is working well.

VIII. Principal's report

- A. Curriculum, instruction, assessment
 - 1. Half days on Friday very valuable for work and professional development
 - 2. Focus on math
 - a) Develop revised scope and sequence; need to adapt to reality
 - (1) Include integration and outdoor classroom
 - 3. Assessment team is preparing for first round of NWEA
- B. Safety
 - 1. Did the first evacuation drill after each classroom practiced on its own.
 - 2. Carried out extensive students training in bus safety and behavior
- C. Community Outreach
 - 1. Looking forward to working with school volunteers. Will do a training session on the upcoming Tuesday.
- D. Questions:
 - 1. Can you record the volunteer training session? Yes, happy to do so.
 - 2. Is fingerprinting required? Still researching that and type of background check that is needed
 - 3. Are TAs involved in math training? Yes, they trained in summer too.
 - 4. Are doors secured and sign-in being enforced?
 - a) Yes, Jason covers in his rounds. Teachers have taught students not to open for anyone.
 - b) Some suggestions on situations to consider were recommended.
 - 5. Anything being done about the fence? Yes. One down section now up. Old gate still needs work.

IX. Board norms were discussed briefly and agreed to.

X. Board Policy Discussion: Our bylaws.

- A. Remote voting to be considered. Discussion:
 - 1. Downside of not being there; upside of wider Board member pool
 - 2. Valuable if we get good Board members; careful it's not abused.
 - 3. Interest in what other boards are doing.
 - a) Charter schools may use remote voting
 - 4. Remote participation could be not quite as involved as in person
 - 5. Some support for being in person at some meetings.
 - 6. Could have a distance parameter; could expect some in person time
 - 7. Allowing out of state means former Fiddlehead students might become Board members.
 - 8. Clear expectations and parameters are important
 - 9. Parent voice is important; in the room for difficult decisions allows fuller communication.
 - 10. Suggestion that we develop a Remote Voting policy for consideration
 - a) Jacinda and Bill to work on this for the next meeting.
 - 11. Some support approving remote voting at each meeting as needed .
 - 12. Can set limits on the amount of remote attendance.
- B. Board terms: Should Board members be allowed to serve two consecutive

terms?

1. Some traditional public school members serve multiple terms
2. On the other hand, we can burn out board members pretty fast
3. Previously ran with three new members each year; seems harder now.
4. How do Boards come to know the culture of the school?
5. Some would like a way to serve a little longer.
 - a) Current bylaws allow three years plus one plus one as needed.
6. We can get to a fifth year if needed.
7. Convoluted language about when and if a Board member can return.
8. Board members can recruit others and do so better when feeling happy on the Board.
9. Current structure of stretching to five years gets us close to six anyway
10. Board member or the Board may request the one year extension.

C. Board Committees:

1. Policy and Governance by Board as a whole
2. Finance under Ben's good leadership
3. Education Committee: Marie has agreed to serve.
4. Diversity Committee: Needs reactivation and is built into the culture
 - a) Jacinda/Jason will do some recruiting and send out the call
5. Personnel: Bill, Jacinda are on. They will ask Sally Morris if she will serve
 - a) Need a Board back up for Bill in case of family involvement
6. Wellness: Susan is chair. Need additional faculty members. Current nurse has helped a good deal.

XI. Finance Committee report by Ben

- A. We wrapped up August so these are quiet financial months at the school.
- B. Found a method to record summer salaries in a better way. Now we are showing estimates in July/August to be ready for the end of the year in June. In June we will reverse these estimates and put in the real costs.
 1. Used recommendation from MCSC
- C. Our monthly reports now include both the Board approved budget and the adjusted budget that shows the needed reductions. We will track to the adjusted budget number.
- D. Also added a section at the end that shows any Board approved moves from our reserve accounts.
- E. Ben will run an "Intro to Fiddlehead Finances" session at the next meeting to orient new Board members and to refresh for existing members.
- F. Susan moved and Ben seconded accepting the Treasurer's Reports for August. Motion carried 4 to 0
- G. Ben will report on the 3 year budget plan we have drafted that is required by MCSC.

XII. Update on COVID policy and Wellness Committee

- A. Susan thanked Katherine Uschmann, Diane Baker, and Jacinda for their help and support on the Wellness Committee.
- B. Our current policy and COVID funds use are on the Website. Susan reports that

it is still valid and up to date.

- C. CDC policy is now that anyone may wear a mask at any time.
- D. State is gearing up if more is needed for current versions of COVID that are hitting the West coast.
- E. Free COVID tests are still available by mail.
- F. Newly available COVID shot is a vaccine, not a booster, to cover new variants.

XIII. Move to executive session: Ben moves and Susan seconded to go into executive session. Motion passed 4 to 0.

XIV. Post Executive session:

- A. Ben moved and Susan seconded to hire
Linda Wolcott as grade 1 TA at \$29,192
Sidney Suarez as Resource Room TA at \$25,082. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Ben moved and Marie seconded to authorize the Executive Director to commit up to \$26,500 (from the unfilled ½ BC/BA position) to TA support as decided by the Executive Director. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Ben moved and Marie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM

Motion passed 4 to 0.

Next meeting is Thursday Oct. 19th at 6 PM at Fiddlehead School.