

Fiddlehead Board Minutes Approved 6/6/24

May 16, 2024

6 PM at Fiddlehead School and via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:02
2. Board members present were Ben Kramer, Marie Reminsnyder, Susan Doughty, Roger Preston, Jamie Dickson, and Bill Doughty
3. Staff present included Jacinda Cotton-Castro and Jen Damon.
4. Jamie read the school mission statement
5. There was no public comment.
6. Minutes from April 11, 2024
 - a. **Ben moved and Susan seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried 5 to 0.**
7. Becky Scott was introduced as a potential new Board member. She is an active Fiddlehead parent and went to schools like Fiddlehead herself.
 - a. The Board introduced themselves to Becky who was on Zoom. She has a kindergartener and a soon-to-be pre-K at Fiddlehead. She values the Reggio and Waldorf approach and supports the values of the school.
8. Dress Code presentation by Jen Damon
 - a. The proposal has been reviewed and discussed once again. Letter A and F have been changed based on feedback from a parent. It contains no requirement in regard to midriffs and cleavage.
 - b. They would like a passed policy to start school in the fall.
 - c. The Board and Jen discussed the current proposal. The discussion revealed the challenges Jen and the school face dealing with this topic.
 - d. **Susan moved and Jamie seconded to approve the dress code proposal as presented and to review the policy in November. Motion passed 6 to 0.**
9. FY 25 budget modification

- a. Old bottom line was about \$15,000. New bottom line is about \$10,000. Two salaries were adjusted and \$2500 added to classroom supplies
 - b. **Ben moved and Roger seconded to approve the revised budget. Motion carried 6 to 0.**
 - c. Ben will update the budget in the Finance folders
10. Calendar for next year, SY 24 to 25. Recommendations are the same as last time. Jacinda will add Philosophy night to get back to our roots. Staff wellness retreat is included. June 10 is the last day. We add on snow days and alternate traditional snow days and Anytime Anywhere learning. Bill requests that Kindergarten screening be listed as a school day for Kindergarten.
 - a. Jamie asks that we include pick up and drop off times in the calendar.
 - b. **Ben moved and Jamie seconded approval of the proposed calendar. Motion carried 6 to 0.**
11. Goals from Re-visioning: Bill explained that the chart consolidates staff priorities from March 9 workshop and Board ratings of impact and sustainability. Likewise, the actions that school leadership and the Board have taken or will take, are included. The request is for the Board to set the “Action” column as goals for the coming year.
 - a. This is to be a kind of dashboard for our work in the coming year.
 - b. Jacinda asks the Board to consider other items such as improved math learning.
 - c. **Ben moved and Jamie seconded to approve the “Action” items as initial Board goals for SY 24-25. Motion carried 6 to 0.**
12. Draft field trip policy: Cape Elizabeth’s policy was included as an example. It’s intended to start the Board’s discussion/decision on field trip policies.
 - a. Jacinda supported a policy which would have helped this year. Some missteps could have been avoided.
 - b. How are special needs of students addressed on field trips?
How do we fold this into the policy?

- i. This can be written into the policy. In general the school leadership looks at this when considering the field trip.
 - c. Jamie suggested we include a guideline on how far in advance trips must be improved.
 - d. Bill pointed out that money raised for a school-sponsored field trip should be held in the school accounts.
 - e. Insurance coverage should also be made clear in the policy.
 - f. How are field trips funded?
 - i. Jacinda noted that depends on the parameters set by the Board.
- 13. Wellness report from Susan
 - a. Faculty feedback on staff wellness retreat was positive.
 - b. Questions from participants might go in the employee handbook.
 - c. A wellness library could be established.
 - d. A sign is needed on the kitchen faucet about using the filter.
 - e. Susan would like to see more parental involvement in the wellness committee.
 - f. Wellness Committee and Board-made muffins are impressive to other schools.
- 14. Jacinda's report
 - a. She acknowledged Kim's passing
 - b. Also the passing on Michael Fralich, a long time Fiddlehead supporter
 - c. She suggests live your best life now. (She cried at this point...again).
 - d. She has submitted another grant for professional development
 - e. We have strong candidates for 6 and 8 and good candidates for TA positions
 - f. Working on the business manager position. Jacinda is covering now with help from Amy and Wendy B.
 - g. She regrets losing Tracy, our amazing bus driver.
 - h. Enrollment is at 190 for next year with 29% special needs
 - i. Some FS students will participate in the Pride parade on June

- j. Bill inserted that Fiddlehead has created a school where it is safe to be who you are. All students are known.
- 15. The Board entered executive session upon **motion from Ben, second from Roger, and a positive vote**
- 16. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:13
- 17. Actions after executive session
 - a. **Jamie moved and Susan seconded to hire Dr. June Sellers as special education director and Denise St. John as teacher assistant. Motion carried 6 to 0.**
- 18. Next meeting is June 6 at 6 PM.
- 19. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 by acclamation.