

Minutes Fiddlehead School Board meeting

Oct. 24, 2024, 6 PM at Fiddlehead and via Zoom.

Approved 11/21/24 by Fiddlehead Board

1. Call to order and quorum:
 - a. Bill called the meeting together at 6:03 and declared a quorum present with 4 members, Bill and Becky in person and Roger and Susan via Zoom. Marie joined the meeting later.
2. Members present: Susan Doughty, Roger Preston, Becky Scott, Marie Reimensnyder, and Bill Doughty
3. Staff present: Jacinda Cotton-Castro and June Sellers. Jason Manjourides was present via Zoom.
4. Approve minutes:
 - a. Susan moved and Becky seconded to approve the minutes from September 26 2024. Motion Passed 4 to 0.
5. Financial Actions
 - a. Treasurer: Susan moved and Becky seconded to elect Roger Preston as Treasurer. Motion carried 5 to 0.
 - b. FY24 End of Year Report (Profit/Loss)
 - i. Jacinda explained the main lines of the report. We ended the fiscal year \$78,000 to the good. We anticipate about \$12,000 more with a final grant payment to us and a correction in accounting for the new rooftop unit.
 - ii. Getting this report done was a challenge due to the change of business manager during this busy time.
 - iii. The report was looked at carefully by our Finance Committee including Jacinda, Ben Kramer, Alison Moser, Roger Preston, and Bill Doughty
 - iv. Jacinda requested Board acceptance of the report. Susan moved and Becky seconded to accept the FY24 End of Year Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.
6. Executive Session
 - a. Bill moved and Roger seconded to go into executive session to consider a personnel item Motion carried 5 to 0.
 - b. The Board returned from executive session.
 - c. Becky moved and Roger seconded to hire Emma Sinford as a

TA. Motion carried 5 to 0.

7. Executive Director's Report

- a. Jacinda gave her report and noted that her father is in the hospital and she needs to leave as soon as possible
- b. She noted that Fiddlehead "bling" is again available and offered some choice items to the Board.
- c. She acknowledged that she has a great leadership team.
- d. Jacinda reviewed the school's goals for this year and progress so far. Steady progress is being made.
- e. The hard work of the Education Committee over the past three years has borne fruit in the Teaching and Learning Handbook now available online for staff.
- f. We are working with the SMARTS curriculum to assist students with executive functioning.
- g. We are using the new yurt extensively and it helped with space problems.
- h. Jacinda left the meeting at this time to be with family.

8. Principal's report. Jason presented his report with the following highlights:

- a. Chronic Absenteeism: Working with the Maine Charter School Commission on this. Good to know other schools face the same issue.
 - i. Our current rate is 24% of students absent more than 10% of the time for any reason.
 - ii. Jason's works with staff each week to check and contact families involved.
 - iii. This issue could be harder for charter schools because so many of the parents drive their students to school.
- b. All school sing has returned to the delight of all.
- c. They are working on a plan to use Anytime/Anywhere Learning as a way to decrease absences

9. Wellness Report from Susan:

- a. The active team is focused on social/emotional wellbeing and bringing mindfulness into the classroom
- b. A library of wellness-related articles has been established.

- c. Working on providing healthy snacks and food for our hard working staff.
 - d. Plans are underway for a March staff development day focused on staff well being.
10. Special Education Report from Dr. June Sellers
- a. June is really enjoying the positive culture at Fiddlehead.
 - b. Partnership with Crowell Center for Disability to normalize disability as a natural part of the human condition.
 - c. Also partner with Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Catholic Charities to support students with hearing and vision needs.
 - d. June has done whole class visits and helped with groups of students and individuals.
 - e. June has brought connections with providers of psychological services and a Board certified behavior analyst to our school.
 - f. Summer hiring went well and we now have a TA in each classroom which is a large investment by the Board in providing for our students' needs.
 - g. June collaborated with Jason and Jacinda to create a TA job description in their new hybrid role and a TA evaluation handbook to go with it.
 - h. June is working on a three year growth and implementation plan for our integrated TA model.
 - i. This includes regular training for TAs and meetings for support and reflection.
 - i. The Board complimented June on the excellent work being done.
 - j. In response to a question June explained the three levels of Ed. Tech. certification and the work they can do with students. Fiddlehead calls such ed. Techs Teacher Assistants (TA).
11. Adjournment: Susan moved and Roger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5 to 0.
12. Next meeting is Thursday Nov. 19th at 6 PM at Fiddlehead and via Zoom.

