

Approved 2/13/25 by FS Board
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes
January 16, 2025, 6 PM
via Zoom

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Bill Doughty, Chair
2. A quorum was established with Board members Becky Scott, Jamie Dickson, Bill Doughty, and Susan Doughty present. Marie Reimensynder joined a few minutes later.
3. Staff members present: [Jacinda Cotton-Castro](#) and Jason Manjourides
4. Guest present: Kristin Starzyk of RMK auditors.
5. Bill Doughty read the Fiddlehead mission statement.
6. There was no public comment
7. Board minutes from Dec. 12, 2024 were approved. Motion by Jamie and seconded by Susan. Motion passed 4 to 0.
8. Financial update:
 - a. Second quarter report being prepared.
 - b. Good news on health insurance. Shifted carriers and were able to offer three plans to staff and the cost increase was small. This means our budget and our staff will not need to pay more starting in January.
 - i. Good work in this by our business manager.
 - c. Quarter 2 report will be ready for the Board's February meeting.
 - d. The health insurance result allows us to meet our commitment to staff that was made during re-visioning. They should not see an increase in their premiums at this time.
9. Auditor's Report: Kristin Starzyk
 - a. General audit report was clean and unmodified.
 - b. Thanks to Jacinda and Nicole for providing the needed information.
 - c. Also checked on Fed. programs including USDA loan
 - i. Reserve account needs to be funded monthly. Six months met the requirements.
 - d. Internal controls were checked and passed

- e. Time sheets need to be signed
- f. Questions:
 - i. Does the USDA amount change each month?
 - 1. The auditor used an estimate for each month.
- g. Kristin presented a brief and clear powerpoint presentation with key elements of the audit report.
- h. The Board thanked Kristin for her good work.

10. Executive Director's Report

- a. School celebrated 23 years since founding idea (11 years operating as a school)
- b. New marketing video launched to boost enrollment
- c. 74 students currently on waitlist, expected to grow
- d. \$10,200 raised for backyard playground project
- e. Fundraiser planned for March 6th at None Such Brewing

11. Principal's Report

- a. Winter NWA assessment administration underway
- b. Student report cards going home tomorrow
- c. Planning 8th grade end-of-year field trip
- d. Received large 10,000+ book library donation, working on cataloging system
- e. Addressing chronic absenteeism issues, collaborating with other charter schools

12. Wellness Committee Update

- a. Planning faculty wellness retreat for March 21st
- b. Secured two expert speakers on self-care strategies
- c. Will include breakout sessions and Q&A coaching
- d. Creating take-home wellness packets for faculty

13. Diversity Committee

- a. Restarting committee work, meeting next week
- b. Will develop land acknowledgment statement for board meetings
- c. Plan to provide full report at next board meeting

14. Fiddlehead Board meeting topics for Feb through June 2025

- a. Feb. 13 Outdoor education
- ~~b. March 8 (Saturday) Budget workshop 10 till 12 noon~~
- c. Mar 20, 2025 Budget workshop
- d. Apr 17, 2025 Performance evaluations: Board goals and Ex. Dir.
- e. May 15, 2025 Student assessment and progress
- f. Jun 5, 2025 End of Year items; elect new Board members.

15. Adjournment: Susan moved and Jamie seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried without dissent.

Impromptu Zoom Meeting - January 16

[VIEW RECORDING - 109 mins \(30 secs of highlights\)](#)

Meeting Purpose

[Monthly board meeting for Fiddlehead School to review finances, operations, and upcoming plans.](#)

Key Takeaways

- [Clean audit report with only minor findings; school is in solid financial shape](#)
- [Enrollment and fundraising efforts progressing well, with 74 on waitlist and \\$10,200 raised for playground](#)
- [New 10,000-book library donation received, plans underway to catalog and make accessible](#)
- [Wellness retreat for faculty planned for March 21st with expert speakers on self-care strategies](#)

Topics

Financial Audit Report

- [Clean, unmodified opinion received on financial statements](#)
- [Minor finding on USDA loan escrow reserve requirements not fully met for 6 months](#)
- [Cash and cash equivalents increased from prior year](#)
- [Management expenses at 25%, within acceptable range for non-profits](#)
- [Overall solid financial position, especially considering staff transitions](#)

Executive Director's Update

- [School celebrated 23 years since founding idea \(11 years as operating school\)](#)
- [New marketing video launched to boost enrollment](#)
- [74 students currently on waitlist, expected to grow](#)
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- [Fundraiser planned for March 6th at None Such Brewing](#)

Principal's Report

- [Winter NWA assessment administration underway](#)
- [Student report cards going home tomorrow](#)

- [Planning 8th grade end-of-year field trip](#)
- [Received large 10,000+ book library donation, working on cataloging system](#)
- [Addressing chronic absenteeism issues, collaborating with other charter schools](#)

Wellness Committee Update

- [Planning faculty wellness retreat for March 21st](#)
- [Secured two expert speakers on self-care strategies](#)
- [Will include breakout sessions and Q&A coaching](#)
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Diversity Committee

- [Restarting committee work, meeting next week](#)
- [Will develop land acknowledgment statement for board meetings](#)
- [Plan to provide full report at next board meeting](#)

Next Steps

- [Schedule June board meeting for 6/5 instead of 6/12](#)
- [Develop land acknowledgment statement for future meetings](#)
- [Confirm details for 3/6 fundraiser at None Such Brewing](#)
- [Recruit potential new board members for June elections](#)
- [Continue planning for March budget workshops](#)

Action Items

- **Follow up with Kristin to get PowerPoint presentation from audit report -**
[WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- **Draft land use statement, connect w/ 7th grade for existing student version, share w/ diversity committee -** [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- **Prepare diversity committee report for next board meeting w/ Becky -** [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)

- **Prepare diversity committee report for next board meeting w/ Marie** - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- **Send meeting invite for diversity committee on 1/23 at 5:15pm, include Jason** - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- **Start process for recruiting new board members for June elections** - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)
- **Confirm details for March 6 fundraiser at None Such Brewery, explore live auction possibility** - [WATCH \(5 secs\)](#)

Annotations

HIGHLIGHT

- William mentions discussion of money and health insurance details - [WATCH \(30 secs\)](#)