Approved minutes. FS Board Mar 20, 2025

Approved by the FS Board Apr 17, 2025

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM
2. All Board members were present including: Becky, Marie, Susan, Roger, Jamie, and Bill.
3. Staff present included Jacinda (ED) and Jason via Zoom.
4. There was no public comment.
5. Minutes from 2/13/25: Jamie moved and Susan seconded to approve the minutes from the 2/13/25 meeting. Motion carried 6 to 0.
6. Financial items: Jacinda updated the Board on the status of the current budget and the climate for building the budget for FY26.
   1. Moving reserve funds: Susan moved and Jamie seconded the motion to move $7733 from the special ed. reserve fund to the operating budget. Motion carried 6 to 0.
7. Reports
   1. Susan reported on the amazing staff workshop that the Wellness Committee has planned for 3/21/25.
      1. Wellness retreat-Old Smith Farm; dynamic speakers; health walks, yoga; creating mindfulness; self-care
         1. Cheryl Richardson will do afternoon coaching on self-care
      2. AAL packets created by Katherine and others.
      3. Working to get a heater.
      4. Jacinda added the quality of the workshop and planning is great.
   2. Becky reported on progress and discussions of the Fruit Basket (formerly Diversity) Committee.
      1. They worked on the name of the committee. Keep as Diversity for now.
      2. Approved committee statement for themselves and Board
      3. Agreed to adult-only membership for safety.
      4. Working on a common land use statement.
      5. Training is being updated; surveys will come.
   3. Jacinda reported on her activities as Executive Director.
      1. HIRING:
         1. Posted the VACANT Special Education Teacher position now for the FY26 year.
         2. Posting position for bus driver – we have a solid lead.
         3. There are no known teaching vacancies for next year at this time.
      2. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: Continued weekly meetings both individually and together for administrative support.
         1. Worked with the Business Manager to work towards having all reports up to date.
      3. MET WITH LEAD STAFF FOR CONTINUED COORDINATION AND DIRECTION.
      4. Budget Development – Worked with the Board Chair, and Finance Committee for our draft budget.
      5. PROGRAMMING:
         1. Session #4 has begun. We will be enrolling in May for next year’s enrichment program for Afterschool.
         2. Lottery to be held on Wednesday, March 19th. We have over 175 students looking for a spot.
         3. Private Music Lessons – registration for next year begins in April.
         4. Summer camps were launched on February 1st – with an early bird discount. This revenue is used as actuals in our FY26 budget.
            1. Staffing for summer looks strong.
            2. Enrollment is at 50 %
            3. The marketing plan for the summer program looks strong and continues.
      6. COMMUNITY BUILDING/ACTIVITIES/FUNDRAISING: Both STEAM Night and SOLSTICE walk was VERY successful and well attended.
   4. Jason presented his principal’s report via Zoom.
      1. Thankful for a school staff that responds to help when it’s needed.
      2. Wellness retreat is well-timed for this part of the year. Staff is excited.
      3. Amber Davidson is new leader of the FS parent group, Will be rebranded: NEST–nurturing education, supporting teachers.
         1. Already coordinated a pot-luck for teachers on 3/24/25.
      4. Space for preK done by collaboration. Great response from staff. There will be quite a bit of movement.
      5. Added a wall to gain two rooms.
      6. Yurt will be a flexible class space, mostly for middle school students.
      7. Has started interviewing bus drivers.
      8. Susan asked for questions for Cheryl. Jason said he’d get some.
8. Budget workshop: The Board was briefed on the draft FY26 budget by Jacinda and Bill
   1. The school is facing budget challenges, including an $80,000 out-of-district placement cost
   2. Several staff position adjustments are being considered to reduce expenses
   3. A new pre-K class will bring in $240,000 in additional revenue next year
   4. The board will likely need to meet again before April to approve the final budgetAdding a new pre-K class of 20 students will bring in $240,000 additional revenue next year
   5. Expecting to add 10+ students in other grades, increasing revenue by ~$100,000 in FY27
   6. Planning for two pre-K classes next year, then transitioning one to kindergarten the following year
   7. Three-year enrollment projections show steady growth to stabilize budget
   8. 3% pay increase budgeted for most staff
   9. Step increases included for eligible teachers
   10. Improved health insurance options at similar cost
   11. New 1% paid family medical leave benefit covered by school
   12. Total revenue: ~$2.5 million from state
   13. 75-80% of budget is staff compensation
   14. Currently projecting $79,000 surplus, which will cover out-of-district placement
   15. Grants and enrichment programs help offset operating deficit
   16. Summer camp program aiming to net $30,000
   17. After-school enrichment exceeded goal this year
9. Executive Session: On a motion by Marie and a second by Becky, the Board entered executive session to discuss personnel items related to the draft FY 26 budget.
10. The Board returned from executive session.
11. Jamie moved and Becky seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Next meeting scheduled: Apr 17, 2025