



The Founders Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2017
Location: School Library

Present: Patricia Humphrey (Founder), Kimberly Lavalley (Founder, Assistant Dean & Treasurer), Richard Hyotte (Chairman), Maureen Anson (Secretary), Sean Thomas, Matt Mercier, Maureen Mooney (Dean), Michael Gaumont (Faculty Trustee).

Guests: Andrew Croteau (Teacher), Virginia Nichols (Teacher), Cassie Hayes (Director of Faculty).

Meeting was called to order promptly at 4:00 pm.

1. Public Comments:

- Virginia Nichols (teacher)
Spoke positively on behalf of herself and Ms. Efraimson about their experience at Founders. She also spoke of her attendance at a two week conference to enhance her skills.
- Moira Ryan (parent)
Spoke positively of her son's experience at Founders. She suggested a collaborative program which would include the Khan Academy. She also suggested a partnership with community restaurants (like Wounded Warriors partnership with Starbucks) to facilitate a free breakfast program for the students.
- Keith Lacasse (parent)
The school's mission, classical education and Saxon math are what attracted him to the school. Concerned over the curriculum.
- Victoria Sullivan (parent)
Reiterated the concerns of Mr. Lacasse. Stated that teachers and parents must be equal partners in education. Stated that a "Parent Steering Committee" does not exist per the charter. Stated that the Girard family is withdrawing from the school.
- Lisa Howe (parent)
Concerned with lack of response to emails from teachers and concerned about the math curriculum.
- Tina Bento (parent)
Expressed concerns over the curriculum and the need for more communication within the school.
- Patrice Bernard (parent)
Stated that it has been a rough summer with all of the gossip and rumors. Encouraged everyone to work together.
- Lisa Moore (teacher/parent)
Wanted to be a voice of positivity. She stated her passion for the mission; that the administration is supportive and there are great teachers. The school is three years young and the positives outweigh the negatives.
- Jane Cormier (teacher)
Saddened and surprised by the parent response. She is here for the mission and is returning because of the character, accountability and support of students.
- Amy Mililo (parent)
Concerned over communication and safety.
- Glen Douglas (parent)
Very excited about experience at Founders in the beginning. Concerned over dress code issue and over a few faculty members leaving.
- Jon DiPietro (parent)
Feels the school is not the same as when it started. Felt the Board's response didn't satisfy the concerns with the math program.
- Rachel Sanville (student)

Spoke positively about hers 3 years at Founders. Compared her experience here versus Southside Middle School and the difference in teacher enthusiasm and support.

- Greg Van Ewyk (teacher)
Read an email from Mr. Waterbury which stated he felt well supported by both Dean Mooney and Ms. Lavalley and that the complaints were mere growing pains. He personally is happy with the teachers, administration and students.
- Elizabeth Sanville (parent)
Came to the meeting in support of her daughter. Believes Founders provides a positive, academic environment and that project-based learning is common.
- Kylene Normandin (parent)
Concerned with communication and stated it needs to be streamlined.
- Denise Burke (parent)
Her daughter's experience at Founders has been wonderful. It has been a very positive experience and she is excited for next year.
- Kevin Ahern (parent)
Would like to see meetings scheduled after business hours. Spoke on behalf of his daughter, Emily, stating that she is very involved in the school and has had a totally positive experience.

Public Comment period ended at 5:07 and Chairman Hyotte thanked the parents, students and teachers who participated and thanked them for their patience.

2. Review and approval of the minutes of the June 21st Board of Trustees Meeting:

- Motion: Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Mercier seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Faculty Report:

- Mr. Gaumont (Curriculum Chair) presented the faculty report updating the Board on all of the various projects worked on over the summer including updating all syllabi for content and uniformity; Roundtable syllabi creation crafted to carry out the mission and vision of the school including grade-level assemblies and service projects. He also stated that ten professional development days have been scheduled some of which will address Roundtable as well as benchmarks to ensure our students meet and exceed state standards.
- Mr. Croteau accompanied by Ms. Nichols gave a presentation on the Math curriculum.
 - Saxon will continue to be used.
 - The program has been developed by grade level with concepts covered listed.
 - The program will contain links to the specific concepts covered.
 - Supplemental materials will be used to enhance and promote problem solving, critical thinking, application of the concepts to everyday life.
 - Saxon is not being abandoned.
 - The order of the content has been rearranged to make it more relevant.
 - Spiraling will continue and training will be provided to help students know where to find lessons related to the problems they are solving.
 - The program has been designed to be challenging and rigorous.
 - A table will be available detailing the concepts/topics covered with their corresponding Saxon lessons listed.
 - An incredible amount of effort went into the development of the curriculum and all members of the department will collaborate regularly.

Non-Public/Executive Session @ 5:27 pm.

Non Public/Executive session - (RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless

such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.)

- Roll Call: all Board members present, Dean Mooney, Mr. Gaumont, Mr. Croteau, and Ms. Hayes were invited to stay.
- Discussion
- Roll Call to come out of Non Public session: all yes
- Non Public/Executive Session ended @ 5:39 pm.

Back in Public Session: Public Invited Back to the meeting

- Ms. Lavallee motioned to seal the minutes from Non Public session, Mr. Mercier seconded. All in favor.

4. Dean's Report: See attached.

Special note of thanks to the Board for their support. Also expressed her appreciation of the incredible amount of work and dedication the teachers have put into the development of the curriculum, syllabi, etc. Noted that the State reporting has been completed and the enormous amount of time and effort exhausted to complete it with little, if any feedback. She also recognized high school student David Gandia who was mentioned in an article in the Union Leader about the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet program in Londonderry.

5. Board Business:

- **Motion to approve both the Student and Faculty Handbooks**
 - 1st - Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Humphrey, Mr. Hyotte and Ms. Lavallee abstained, all else in favor.
- Appointment of Committee Chairs/Co-chairs:
 - Outreach Committee - Mr. Hyotte and Ms. Anson will Co-Chair
 - Policy Committee - Mr. Thomas will Chair
 - Finance - Ms. Lavallee will Chair, Ms. Anson to serve
 - Discussion ensued on two new committees titled Response Committee and Mission Committee and what their roles and purposes should be. The Response Committee will convene to respond the public comments/concerns expressed at Board of Trustee meetings on behalf of the Board.
 - **Motion:** To create the Response Committee consisting of two members - 1st by Ms. Humphrey, seconded by Ms. Lavallee. Ms. Humphrey will Chair the Response Committee.
 - The decision to create a Mission Committee was tabled after further discussion.
- Proposal to change the start time of the Board of Trustees meetings:
 - Two meetings will begin at 6:00 pm (October and February meetings).
 - **Motion:** To change the time of the October 18, 2017 and February 21, 2018 meetings to 6:00 pm - 1st by Ms. Lavallee, seconded by Mr. Mercier, all else in favor.
- Next meeting is September 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting:

- 1st by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Anson.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.