



## **The Founders Academy**

**February 21, 2018 6:00 pm** Board Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance: Matt Mercier

Moment of Silence for victims of Florida school shooting: Matt Mercier

Reading of the Mission Statement: Matt Mercier

Present: Kim Lavallee, Matt Mercier, Patty Humphrey, Kristi Scarpone, Michael Gaumont, Maureen Mooney, Liam Childers

Meeting called to order: 6:00pm

Reading of BEDH - Matt Mercier

1. Public Comments:
  - a. Patrice Benard - As to the budget, progress is being made in getting reports out, but it's taken 4 ½ years for this to happen. Please foster transparency and parental involvement, or we will go to social media and other avenues. Especially talk to high schoolers, as we have concerns about our students being able to get diplomas. Please review BEDH; we want to be a part of our children's education, we want to have a voice and be partners. Look at what other towns and districts are doing for public comments. Please post meeting times of Board subcommittees of board in public.
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from January Board Meeting
  - a. Mercier proposes motion to approve the January 22 Meeting minutes. Mrs. Humphrey makes the motion, Mrs. Lavallee seconds.
    - i. vote taken: all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
3. Faculty Report
  - a. Michael Gaumont presents.
4. Student Trustee Report
  - a. Liam Childers presents.
5. Dean's Report
  - a. Maureen Mooney presents.
  - b. Greg McKenzie presents PSAT score overview.
6. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Lavallee presents.
7. Board Business:
  - a. Review new external Board candidates: Robert Best, Barbara Comtois

- i. Bob Best: Attorney, supporter of charter schools and school choice for long time, and of Founders for couple of years. Greatly admires Founders' mission and focus on history and great people in history.
    - 1. Mrs. Lavallee question: what areas would you be interested in joining? Answer: wherever the need is.
  - ii. Barbara Comtois: Corporate Accountant, homeschooled two children, advocate for charter schools and school choice. Appreciates Founders basing curriculum on classics and looking to history.
    - 1. Mrs. Lavallee question: what areas would you be interested in joining? Answer: wherever the need is.
- b. Review Parent Steering Committee Board Member candidates
  - i. Sue Lawton - Solutions Engineering Project Manager, good experience in communication. Public school was not an option for our son; we heard about Founders and it just felt right. We heard rumors of issues last fall and want to take a more active role in the school community. The overwhelming majority of families are happy here, and I want their voices to be heard; I want them to be part of this community and this dialogue.
    - 1. Mrs. Lavallee question: What is your approach to problem resolution? Answer: Listening is vital, as well as making sure you have all the facts.
  - ii. Jon DiPietro - Father of two students here; this school singlehandedly pulled 11th grader out of the academic drain. Mission of school is a dream for me and everything I want for my kids. I am a digital marketer now, but was in automation engineering for a while. This is why I tend to fix problems, to focus on what's wrong and what can be improved. I want to help the school succeed, and have the drive and the experience to do so.
    - 1. Mrs. Humphrey question: What are problems you see? Answer: A serious problem is all the tension here that's been around for a while. I think trust needs to be established over time and in various directions. The biggest school issue is the math curriculum.
  - iii. Kristi Ouellette: This school was answer to everything we were looking for; our student can go at her own pace here. We like being involved and active in things we care about, and this school is one of them. I received my Bachelors in education and was the admin of early childhood program, so I have experience dealing with parents and teachers, who are happy and unhappy. I also worked for NH as a child care licensing specialist, so I'm good with difficult situations. I owned a company specializing in professional development for teachers. Now I own my own travel company. Like Mrs. Lawton, we've had some issues over the years, but the door

has always been open to deal with them, teachers and administration, everyone welcomes open conversations.

1. Mrs. Lavallee question: With your background in professional development, would you want be involved in a committee with Professional Development and offer workshops etc? Answer: Yes definitely, I still love doing that kind of thing.
- iv. Moira Ryan: Has worked for fortune 500 companies and has 5 degrees, including Masters in business administration and education, and is a registered nurse. I am also an educational advocate for students with learning disabilities. I volunteer at the school every day, and see what goes on, and I want to help make it a positive environment.
  1. Mrs. Lavallee question: What would be the first areas you would want to get involved in? Answer: Finance committee, but also curriculum.
- c. Nominate two members from the Parent Steering Committee candidates, for compliance with RSA 292:6-a (**Reference:** <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XXVII/292/292-6-a.htm>)
  - i. Chairman Mercier - Call for discussion on candidates one by one.
  - ii. Bob Best:
    1. Mrs Lavallee - His resume is impressive, and we do need that law background, that's helpful to the school.
    2. Mrs Humphrey - Grateful that someone so qualified is willing to serve.
  - iii. Barbara Comtois:
    1. Mrs. Lavallee - We welcome the financial background.
    2. Mrs. Scarpone - Her strong skill sets are a plus.
  - iv. Susan Lawton:
    1. Mrs Humphrey - Her enthusiasm and articulation in expressing it is good to hear.
  - v. Jon Dipietro:
    1. Mrs. Lavallee - He brings problem solving skills with his engineering background, and that is something that would be very beneficial to the Board right now.
  - vi. Kristy Ouellette:
    1. Mrs. Humphrey - Same as for Mrs. Lawton, thank you for giving us so much of your time and talent, thank you for what you contribute to the school and for your skill set.
  - vii. Moira Ryan:
    1. Mrs. Scarpone - She knows a lot, which would be helpful.
    2. Mrs. Humphrey: She is very devoted to her student and helpful to school on daily basis.

- viii. Chairman Mercier asks for motion to vote on candidates (2 external, 2 from Parent Steering Committee, and in the future we may re-invite other candidates for other positions)
1. Mrs. Humphrey motions to vote and Mrs. Lavallee seconds. First is Robert Best, for a one year term.
    - a. Chairman Mercier calls the roll.
      - i. Mrs. Humphrey - Yea. Mrs. Lavallee - Yea. Mrs. Scarpone - Yea. Chairman Mercier - Yea.
      - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  2. Mrs. Lavallee motions to vote for Barbara Comtoise for a one year term, Mrs. Scarpone seconds.
    - a. Chairman Mercier calls the roll.
      - i. Mrs. Humphrey - Yea. Mrs. Lavallee - Yea. Mrs. Scarpone - Yea. Chairman Mercier - Yea.
      - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  3. Mrs. Scarpone motions to vote for Susan Lawton for a one year term. Mrs. Humphrey seconds.
    - a. Chairman Mercier calls the roll.
      - i. Mrs. Humphrey - Yea. Mrs. Lavallee - Yea. Mrs. Scarpone - Yea. Chairman Mercier - Yea.
      - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  4. Chairman Mercier motions to vote for Jon Dipietro for a one year term. Mrs. Scarpone seconds.
    - a. Chairman Mercier calls the roll.
      - i. Mrs. Scarpone - Nay. Mrs. Humphrey - Nay. Mrs. Lavallee - Nay. Chairman Mercier - Yea.
      - ii. One in favor, three opposed, motion does not pass.
  5. Mrs. Scarpone motions to vote for Kristy Ouellette for a one year term. Mrs. Humphrey seconds.
    - a. Chairman Mercier calls the roll.
      - i. Mrs. Humphrey - Yea. Mrs. Lavallee - Yea. Mrs. Scarpone - Yea. Chairman Mercier - Yea.
      - ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  6. Mrs. Scarpone motions to vote for Moira Ryan for a one year term. No second.
    - a. No vote is taken, the motion does not pass.
- d. Admissions Report - Maureen Mooney presents.
- i. Number of families in attendance at Open Houses:
    1. October 19th - 45
    2. Nov 6th - 37
    3. January 22nd - 41
    4. February 6th - 37
  - ii. To date there are 132 applications in process. The 100 received applications are as follows: 74 in the 6th grade, 18 in 7th grade, 5 in

the 8th grade, 2 in 9th grade, 0 in 10th grade, 1 in 11th grade and 0 in 12th grade. A total of 71 completed applications at this time.

8. New Business

- a. Modifying the Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members: current Board met and decided to postpone the discussion until new members were elected.

9. Non Public /Executive Session

- a. Mrs. Lavallee makes motion to go into closed session under RSA 91-A:3 II (I), consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Mrs. Humphrey seconds.

- b. Chairman Mercier calls roll.

- i. Mrs. Humphrey - Yea. Mrs. Lavallee - Yea. Mrs. Scarpone - Yea. Chairman Mercier - Yea. Mr. Best - Yea. Mrs. Comtois - Yea. Mrs. Lawton - Yea. Mrs. Ouellette - Yea.

- ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

- c. Public session reconvened: Mrs. Humphrey makes motion to seal the Closed Session Minutes, Mrs. Comtois seconds.

- i. No discussion

- ii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

10. Mrs. Lavallee makes motion to adjourn meeting, Mrs. Lawton seconds.

- iii. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

- iv. Meeting adjourned approximately 8:00pm.

11. Next Meeting March 21, 2018, 5:30pm