



## **The Founders Academy**

**May 16, 2018 5:30 pm** Board Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading of the Mission Statement

Present: Matt Mercier, Kim Lavallee, Barbara Best, Sue Lawton, Liam Childers (ex officio), Maureen Mooney (ex officio), Michael Gaumont (ex officio)

Absent: Kristi Scarpone, Robert Best, Kristi Ouellette

### **1) Public Comments:** 5:34pm

- Patrice Benard: admissions reports only include new students transferring in, not out; would like April minutes to reflect Kimberly Lavallee stated 380 students; there was not a curriculum committee meeting posted as in the faculty report; parents were not told about DeVos visit with enough time; there was a mistake in treasurer's report and this is misleading parents.
- Jane Cormier: positive comments about DeVos's visit; at least for music department, our singers were excited to share something special with an important person in our national political system. She was kind and gracious, and there didn't seem to be anything that was causing disruption that she noticed. It was a positive and good thing.
- Connor MacFarland: suggested some edits to school visitation policy; felt that the DeVos visit was staged, that everything was prepared beforehand and we weren't allowed to ask questions that had not been prepared beforehand.

### **2) Review and Approval of Minutes from April Board Meeting**

- April 18, 2018 (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/MuwY52>)
- **MOTION**
  - Patty Humphrey motions to accept the April meeting minutes, including a statement by Kim Lavallee that the enrollment will be corrected from 350 to 380 as stated at April board meeting. Sue Lawton seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.

### **3) Faculty Report:** **See here:** <https://goo.gl/7DcM1c>

- Michael Gaumont presents.

### **4) Student Trustee Report:** **See here:** <https://goo.gl/KmbkHA> 5:42pm

- Liam Childers presents.

5) Dean's Report: **See here:** <https://goo.gl/P1g9Nq> 5:50pm

- Dean presents.
- Mr. McKenzie presented PSAT Score Trends showing growth in student testing. He has created a chart and began tracking data. The school has significant score increases in Language Arts and math. He also provided the breakdown for future PSAT 8/9 testing at Founders.

6) Treasurer's Report: **See here:** <https://goo.gl/3oNdvL> 6:08pm

- Lavalley presented and indicated the narrative has a typo that will be corrected. The numbers are accurate and the school is not misleading parents as suggested in public comment.

7) Board Business: ~6:15pm

- Admissions
  - To date there are 170 applications in process. The 143 received applications are as follows: 87 in the 6th grade, 25 in 7th grade, 10 in the 8th grade, 11 in 9th grade, 8 in 10th grade, 2 in 11th grade and 0 in 12th grade. A total of 116 completed applications at this time.
  - **Current Academic Year New Students Transfers (Sept 6, 2017 - May 15, 2018 ) Admissions Closed for Academic Year 2017 - 2018:**
    - 33 students
  - **Admissions Acceptance Letters**
    - 116 letters to students & parents as of May 15, 2018, 111 students accepted
- Personnel Committee-Appoint Chair
  - Robert Best appointed to chair this committee
- Outreach Committee-Appoint Chair
  - Kristi Scarpone appointed to chair this committee
- Mr. McKenzie presentation (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/3oNdvL>) on Business/Technology Department Changes
- Ms. Scantlebury presentation (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/jEivTN>) on Student Summer Field Research Trip for high school credit
  - Sue Lawton question: do you have ideas of how students could fundraise (cost of trip is \$3,000)?
    - Scantlebury: Yes we could offer options, but we can't predict how much will be raised.
  - Sue Lawton-we should have a plan where students can fundraise so the students with a strong interest in science who want to go can start planning for it.
  - Mrs. Lavalley thanked Ms. Scantlebury for the hard work in preparing her presentation and offer to donate her services to teach the class in year one. She also thanked her for providing lunch to every employee at the last PD day from her company stoneandfirepizza.com.
- PTSA report-Susan Lawton presenting
  - School dances: huge thank you to dance committee first of all, the work they do is tremendous.

- We've been hearing requests from parents and students who think we should have separate middle school and high school dances. This will require additional parent involvement, especially for middle school, b/c Mrs. DiPietro can't be expected to volunteer for twice the amount of dances. Some middle school parents don't see the issue yet, but I think there is enough we've heard from that we could propose this. The high school feedback is fairly strong to begin separating some school events.
- Liam Childers: high schoolers do think that there isn't enough that distinguishes them from the middle school; this would be a way to give them their own space.
- Patty Humphrey: students should have the most say in these social things that are for their benefit.
- Matt Mercier - the proposal to have there be separate dances for high school and middle school will go to the student senate.
- Dean Mooney asked for a middle school dance proposal. She receives these proposals from the dance committee currently and thinks this works well.
- Policies
  - Visitor Policy (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/iPzuV1>)
    - **MOTION**
      - Kim Lavalley motions to approve the visitor policy as presented at the April 18th board meeting; Patty Humphrey seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.
  - Confidentiality Policy
    - Not posted yet.
  - Medication Policy (JLCD) (**Reference:** <https://goo.gl/z2cpkg>)
    - **MOTION**
      - Kim Lavalley motions to approve the medication policy as presented at the April 18th board meeting; Patty Humphrey seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.

#### 8) New Business: ~6:30pm

- Matt Mercier requests a ratification of the vote taken in January regarding the interim chair and vice-chair positions. A quorum was present with the remaining four board members but it was less than five members which the board strives to maintain.
  - **MOTION**
    - Kim Lavalley motions to ratify the vote for Matt Mercier as interim chairman from the January meeting; Barbara Comtois seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.
  - **MOTION**
    - Kim Lavalley motions to ratify the vote for Patty Humphrey as vice chairman from the January meeting; Barbara Comtois seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.
- Discussion about how concerns come to the Board from parents and community members.

- Several board members received emails from the previous chair. They would like to make sure the entire board is receiving the same information. There is a wish for the process to be streamlined and appropriate confidentiality observed.
- Mercier suggests that emails will now go to the clerk or chair; any messages the clerk receives will be sent to the chair directly.
- This information will be posted on the board page on the website.
- The policy committee will consider whether we need a policy about this, along with consideration of a confidentiality policy.

9) Non Public /Executive Session: 6:50pm

● **MOTION**

- Kim Lavallee moves to enter into non-public session, “for the purposes of discussing a matter which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of a person who is not a member of this body pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c). In addition, I move to enter into non-public session for the purposes of consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(L).” Mr. Mercier invites Maureen Mooney and the clerk to remain.
  - Barbara Comtois seconds; roll is called
    - Sue Lawton votes Yea; Patty Humphrey votes Yea; Matt Mercier votes Yea, Barbara Comtois votes Yea; Kimberly Lavallee vote Yea.

● **MOTION**

- Upon returning from closed session, Kim Lavallee motions to seal the non-public minutes: “I move to seal the minutes of the non-public session because the divulgence of the information in the minutes would likely adversely affect the reputation of the person who is not a member of the body. I further move to seal the minutes concerning the consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel.”
  - Sue Lawton seconds; roll is called
    - Sue Lawton votes Yea; Patty Humphrey votes Yea; Matt Mercier votes Yea, Barbara Comtois votes Yea; Kimberly Lavallee vote Yea.

**MOTION**

- 7:15pm: Kim Lavallee motions to adjourn, Barbara Comtois seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

10) Next Meeting June 20, 2018 at 5:30 PM