



The Founders Academy  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2017  
Location: School Library

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

Absent: Patricia Humphrey (Founder)

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Patrice Benard (parent) requested the meeting open with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Chairman acknowledged her request and asked her to lead us off.

**1. Public Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Patrice Benard (parent)

- Stated she would be “live” blogging the meeting
- Spoke of how enthusiastic the students are about the school store and hopes it can be expanded to include inventory, money management and entrepreneurship (similar to DECA).
- Landscaping Committee: back area is being taken care of by professionals; Dean Mooney and her husband set up sprinklers; a new lawnmower is needed; more volunteers are needed and once winter sets in the committee can move on to indoor needs.

Keith Lacasse (parent)

- Stated he received a letter from a former teacher that he had intended to read but has decided not to do so.
- Urged that we must not burn bridges . . . people may want to come back.
- Classroom Visitation Policy: What is the genesis? He stated he asked to visit his daughter’s geometry class and then he noticed the policy creation. He stated his daughter was struggling with her homework and that was what led him to want to visit the class to see what was going on in class. He didn’t believe he was being disruptive. He felt it is important to be able to observe the class with short notice so that the teacher doesn’t “prepare” in advance for the visit.

Kristi Ouellette (parent)

- Has continued concern with the math program
- Rumor that there are no textbooks in the classroom.

- Waiting to receive a textbook because for her child, no textbook is a problem.
- Stated she has had a great experience substitute teaching for Mr. Kline and Ms. Hayes has been very supportive.

2. **Review and approval of the minutes of the September 20th Board of Trustees Meeting:**

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

3. **Board Business:**

- Ex Officio Board Member - Student Representative Liam Childers was introduced and welcomed.
  - Liam is currently a 10th grader looking forward to a career in politics.
- Parent Steering Committee is still in policy review and has been moved to next month's meeting.
- Annual Fund: Ms. Lavalley read the names of those who have contributed so far this year. The goal is 100% participation from Founders' families. With 100% participation, grant funds would be available but commitment from families is needed.
- Proposal for school trips to New York City and Philadelphia/DC were proposed by Greg McKenzie.
  - The New York City trip would take place just after school ends. This trip is open to Level 3 and Level 4 Band members and select drama club members as well as drama students from ASD in Nashua. This will be a 2 day/1 night trip leaving on June 19th and returning on June 20th. The bus will leave at 7:00 am and arrive in NYC at approximating 2:00 pm. The first day will include a guided tour of Central Park, Lincoln Center, dinner at Planet Hollywood, the Broadway Show "School of Rock the Musical", and end with a visit to the Empire State Building. Travel to Secaucus, NJ to check into the hotel and start day two with a workshop with a Broadway performer (Q & A session) and visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art with a guided tour of the musical exhibits. Approximate cost will be about \$500 depending upon the number of attendees. Eight chaperones are interested. Mr. Mercier mentioned he has friend with a connection to the musical Hamilton and Ms. Scarpone mentioned she has a connection as well to the School of Rock.
  - Mr. Childers commented that he attended last school year's trip to NYC with Mr. McKenzie and enjoyed visiting Ellis Island and the Museum of Natural History.
  - The second trip presented was an American History 5 day trip to Philadelphia and Washington DC. It will take place the week before April school vacation (April 16 - 20) and will include: Independence Hall, Ben Franklin Museum, Hard Rock Cafe, Gettysburg, Valley Forge, 2 hour guided tour of the battlefields, Medieval Times, Tour of the White House, International Spy Museum, Library of Congress, National Archives, numerous monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Fort Henry, National Aquarium, and more. Expected cost is \$850/\$900.

Fundraisers are planned to help students defray the cost. For example, Donut Donuts coupon booklets were a successful campaign last year.

- **Motion:** Mr. Mercier motioned to approve both trips and Ms. Lavallee seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. **Dean's Report:** See here: <https://goo.gl/6aemyG>

- Reiterated her appreciation for the support of the Board and dedication of the teachers and staff. Thanked the parents who responded to the need for supplies.
  - Welcomed Liam Childers
  - Commended the Student Services Department for their efforts in creating the Student Services webpage offering academic support, college and career planning and social/emotional support.
  - Two successful professional development days have been held thus far focusing on google classroom training, portal training, PSAT administration training, committee meetings, department chair collaboration.
  - Reviewed the school's Smarter Balanced Testing results.
    - 129 students took the test, 92 opted-out (opt outs are only granted by the DOE however; the Dean honored parents refusals to allow their children to take the test (which she stated is a violation of law).
    - The ELA results showed that participating students in grades 6 and 7 were below state average and students in grade 8 were at state average.
    - The Math results showed that participating students in grade 6 were above state average and students in grades 7 and 8 were below state average.
    - Mr. Mercier asked Dean Mooney for some context as it appears our students are performing at or below state averages. Dean Mooney stated if the school could opt out of the exam she would. Founders does not teach to the test and it is disruptive to the students. Smarter Balance is being replaced (NH did not renew the contract) however; the replacement test runs on the same system/platform as Smarter Balance so it will basically be Smarter Balance just with a new name and the new test will also include Science.
  - Reviewed the school's NECAP test results from May 2017.
    - 57 8th graders took the test, 3 did not finish and 5 refused.
    - The majority of the students were below proficient and Founders results were below state averages in all levels.
  - School Store:
    - Ms. Lavallee stocks, organizes and the students love working it. Provides revenue.
  - Appointments to the Curriculum, Safety, Field Trip Subcommittee, etc. have been completed.
  - Teacher of the Month: Mr. Croteau
  - Volunteer of the Month: Mrs. Fung
  - Executive Council Meeting was held at Founders on Wednesday, October 11th. Governor Sununu chose Founders as his offsite choice for the meeting. Students received presentations on the authority and responsibilities of the Council and were

allowed to sit in on the meetings on a revolving basis. The Student Senate gave the Governor and Councilors a tour of the school and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

- October 23rd at 6:00 pm, Terri Hamilton, parent/student coach, will present the topic “bringing out the best in your child” to be followed by a parent-led discussion. RSVP to Kylene Normandin.
- Halloween Dance is scheduled for Friday, October 27th organized by Lori DePietro.
- Thank you to the volunteers who readied the school for the Executive Council Meeting.
- Spirit Committee is now called the Student Activities Committee.
- Open House/Admission Nights are scheduled for October 19th and November 6 and will include Choral performances, three interactive classes and student ushers.
- The Founders Academy Choir will sing the National Anthem at the Monarchs hockey team home opener on Saturday October 21st.
- Dean Mooney attended the Northeast Delta Dental Youth Leadership Summit with five students from Founders.

**5. Treasurer’s Report:**

- Thanked families for Annual Fund donations received thus far.
- Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Monday October 23rd at 3:30 pm
  - Budget will be reviewed
  - Policy reviews

**6. Faculty Report:**

- Professional Development Day, October 13th
  - Mr. Croteau presented on his summer workshop attendance at UNH
  - Ms. Small presented on the Harkness method and Socratic Discussion.
  - Parent presentation on Autism in the classroom
  - Group reflection on the restorative discipline method
  - The Math and Foreign Language departments provided lunch
- Curriculum Committee meeting, October 13th
  - Discussed benchmarks, mastery and placement exams.
  - Dr. Stanton presented the math curriculum map and the benefits of leveling classes to ensure rigor and appropriate student engagement.
  - Mr. McKenzie discussed the graduation requirements.
- Movie Night, October 13th
  - Hosted by the Spirit Committee (now Student Activities Committee) featured Hocus Pocus and Nightmare Before Christmas. Ms. Efraimson, Ms. Nichols and Ms. Goodrich-Bundy are organizing fun activities. Currently, Round Tables are having a door decorating contest (scariest door, funniest door and citizenship/code of conduct).
- PSAT for grades 8 and 9, October 27th
  - Director of Faculty, Ms. Hayes held training on PSAT administration, rules and guidelines.
  - Student Services hosted an assembly on October 17th to discuss and explain the test.

- Mr. Gaumont stated he was asked 30 minutes prior to the meeting to bring a teacher concern before the Board. Ms. Efraimson wanted to make the Board aware that racism and sexual harassment is occurring at lunch and that it has been brought to the administration's attention with no resolve or follow-up.
  - Administration stated they were not made aware of it and could not respond without knowing specifics.
  - Administration is to investigate and report back to the board at the next meeting.
- Patrice Benard (parent) asked to be allowed to speak.
- **Motion:** Chairman Hyotte motioned to allow Mrs. Benard to speak and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Discussion? None . . . all in favor? All approved.
  - She stated a student reported to her that a racist remark was made to the student while in school.
  - Student stated she was not comfortable going to Administration.
  - Stated students feel intimidated by Administration.
  - Dean Mooney asked Chairman Hyotte if she could respond to Mrs. Benard since she was specifically mentioned and allegations were made. Chairman Hyotte granted Dean Mooney's request to speak. Dean Mooney emphasized that Administration takes reports of bullying very seriously and takes great measures to end and eradicate the bad behavior. In addition to an investigation and consequences, there is an extensive follow-up process that most schools do not put the time into. However, the follow-up for victims and perpetrators can prevent future incidents. Dean Mooney also stated that discipline can only go so far and that the true change in behavior comes from within the student perpetrator. She also noted that due to strict privacy laws, discipline with specific students cannot be discussed. Dean Mooney also stated that volunteers in the building have an obligation and duty to report alleged incidents of bullying to Administration.
  - Mr. Mercier questioned how complaints are handled.
  - Ms. Lavalley suggested that the Board read the handbook which states the procedures for discipline/harassment.
- A parent interrupted the meeting. Chairman Hyotte told the parent they were out of order however; the parent continued to speak. Chairman Hyotte then asked for a motion to recess but the parent continued and approached the table. The parent reported that their child was a victim of bullying and attempted suicide. Chairman Hyotte repeatedly asked the parent and demanded they stop speaking. The parent refused and stated that the Administration did nothing about it and told Chairman Hyotte that nothing gets done by this Board. The parent shouted using extremely vulgar language directed at the Chairman as well as Administration and stormed out.

**7. Admissions Report:** Presented by Chairman Hyotte

- Open house/Admissions Nights scheduled for October 19th and November 6th.
- 25 applications in process
- 14 for 6th grade
- 5 for 7th grade

- 1 for 8th grade
- 13 completed
- We are ahead of last year's count

**8. Committee Reports:** Presented by Chairman Hyotte

- Next Outreach Committee is October 26th at 5:00 pm.
  - Agenda: Calendar Raffle, Stark breakfast/dinner, Business Directory
- Policy Committee: Presented by Mr. Thomas
  - Meeting held October 16th
  - The School Visiting Policy was adopted by the Policy Committee. Mr. Thomas read the policy and stated it is for safety purposes and is not directed at any one person. These policies are the norm with schools.
  - **Motion:** Mr. Thomas motioned to have a second reading/review of the policy at the next meeting and Mr. Mercier seconded the motion. All were in favor.
  - The Volunteer Driver Agreement was adopted by the Policy Committee. Volunteer drivers must have a valid driver's license, insurance, registration and vehicle must pass inspection.
  - **Motion:** Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the Volunteer Driver Agreement and Ms. Scarpone seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Finance Committee: Presented by Ms. Lavallee
  - Budget and policy review scheduled for October 23rd at 3:30
  - Suggested adding a student member of the School Store to the Finance Committee
- Response Committee:
  - Need to continue to respond to public comment

**9. Non-Public/Executive Session @ 7:42 pm.**

- Motion to enter Non Public/Executive session under RSA 91-A:3, I
- Roll Call: Ms. Lavallee, Chairman Hyotte, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Mercier, Ms. Scarpone, Ms. Anson - all in favor. Chairman Hyotte then invited Dean Mooney and Ms. Hayes (present at the meeting) to stay.
- Discussion
- Roll Call to come out of Non Public session: all yes
- Non Public/Executive Session ended @ 8:10 pm.

**Back in Public Session:** Public Invited Back to the meeting

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

Next meeting is November 15, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

**Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting:**

- 1st by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Thomas.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm