



The Founders Academy

August 22nd, 2018 5:30 pm Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Bob Best, Patty Humphrey, Kimberly Lavallee, Susan Lawton, Barbara Comtois, Maureen Mooney.

Absent: Jane Cormier, Kristy Ouellette, Kristi Scarpone, Matt Mercier.

Pledge of Allegiance: Robert Best (5:40pm)

Moment of Silence: Robert Best

Reading of the [Mission Statement](#): Robert Best

1) Public Comments: See Policy [BEDH](#) (5:42pm)

a. Patrice Benard

- Believes discussion and decision made in closed session about the Dean's agreement were illegal because they were made in closed session. In the Dean's report, there are no enrollment numbers and only 57% of the students made honor roll. The Treasurer's report wasn't available early enough. Comments on how she believes PSC members are supposed to be re-elected after serving for the remainder of the school year on the board. In the Handbook, the school hasn't grown because schools can't grow, only the student population can, she doesn't think it has, the dean is not dean of parents, there is a different mission statement, and there is not a classical education because no Greek or Latin is offered.

b. Glenn Douglas

- There were a lot of issues last year with the curriculum changes. He would like more transparency and community feedback on policy changes. The public comment policy seems to have lots of limits, like in new business where things are brought up and we can't comment, why isn't the board under those same restrictions? Parents also aren't being heard because of the 10 minute cutoff. Would like the policy to be revised.

c. Elizabeth Sanville

- Comments about the dress code: thinks it should be updated. In the new one, some things were left out that did seem appropriate. Some of the wording needs to be changed and clarified, like the word "modest" is very subjective. Some of changes are a step down, not step up. This item should be tabled until we get more teacher, parent, and student feedback. Yes there was a meeting but not enough notice was given and it was poorly attended. We need to hear more

from the community. We need to be more transparent, and make sure that it will be well received.

d. Rachel Sanville:

- I love the Founders Academy, there are amazing teachers and an amazing community, but I agree with my mother about a lot of the dress code issues, and I think it should be tabled as well. We should wait until school starts to get more input from other students.

e. Francesca Vesey:

- I did go to the meeting about the dress code, and there were only three students there. Not enough notice was given, and while I like a lot of the new changes, not enough students were there to give input.

2) Board Chairman remarks (5:58pm)

- a. I offer a warm welcome to our families and returning families, and I want to express how important it is to value our new and current students; they are our customers, and we have to do a good job in valuing and appreciating their choice to be here and what they do here. I want to read over the [visitor policy](#), as this is very important for school safety.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes from June Board Meeting (6:02pm)

- a. [June 20, 2018](#)
- b. Sue Lawton: I wanted to have it reflected that I did not refrain from both of the votes out of non-public session.
- c. Discussion about Mrs. Benard's allegation that the decisions made in the non-public section were illegal.
- Decision made to table the minutes pending further investigation.

4) Student Trustee Report: N/A

5) Dean's Report: See [here](#). (6:08pm)

- a. Dean Mooney presents.

6) Treasurer's Report: See [here](#). (6:10pm)

- a. Review short-term loan
- In the summer we have a line of credit which gets paid back in full in November.
- b. Barbara Comtois presents
- The school does not typically receive per pupil aid in July but we continue to pay expenditures. We did not run as many summer camps as we wanted. Susan Lawton asked for clarification regarding charter funding. The former Treasurer said payments arrive in September, November, and February. In the summer we receive a catch-up check, where all public schools work out average attendance, transfers, etc. If an error in the report occurs in a public school it may impact another public school receiving payment. The DOE is working hard to try and streamline this process. The check we are expecting is for approximately \$198,000.

- **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to accept the report, Patty Humphrey seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion passes.

7) Board Business: (6:17pm)

a. Parent Steering Committee

- Review terms of current Parent Steering Committee trustees
 - i. Kim Lavallee: They were elected for a one year term (12 months), the steering committee membership must be renewed annually and ends at the end of each school year. For Board members it can also be 12 months.
 - ii. Robert Best: we elected these people in February, and their term would run through next January. We can vote to extend it to next June for continuity's sake.
 - iii. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions in favor of extending the terms of Kristi Ouellette and Sue Lawton to June, 2019, Barbara Comtois seconds, 4 in favor, none opposed, Sue Lawton abstains, motion passes.
- Date for the caucus in September, 2018
 - i. Kristi Ouellette will be here to present on this for the September meeting, and the date will be announced in the newsletter etc. so returning and new families have an opportunity to participate.

b. Student Handbook 2018-2019: See [here](#). (6:23pm)

- Dean Mooney: just a reminder that the handbook edits can be suggested by anyone at any time, pending Board approval; the edits seen here are mine, in yellow.
- Sue Lawton: the mission statement in "ii" should be replaced with the one that is on the website.
- Discussion on whether coffee is considered a highly caffeinated drink (section 4.2), Robert Best proposes amending it to say that coffee and tea are the exceptions.
- **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to adopt the handbook with the above edits, Barbara Comtois seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

c. Dress Code presentation (see [here](#)) - Ms. Brown, Ms. Stewart, and students (6:44pm)

- Kim Lavallee and Patty Humphrey remind the board and public the dress code changes came from the faculty and students; this wasn't initiated by the administration. Dean Mooney originally proposed this be presented by students after school starts at a board meeting so every student had the opportunity to contribute.
- Mrs. Moore was absent-Michael Gaumont read her statement and student David Knight read a statement.
- Ms. Brown and Mrs. Stewart present
 - i. Discussion: the teachers are in favor of having something in place before the start of the school year, rather than discussing it with students after the school year begins and making any changes then. Patty Humphrey and others want to give kids that voice first, to keep the old one for now

and only adopt the new one after getting all student input. The discussion focused on the principle of allowing students to contribute to the school in meaningful ways. The dress code has a direct impact on them and how does approving the dress code without full impact allow this.

- ii. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to table the new teacher-created dress code until the October board meeting, pending more student input. Sue Lawton seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
 - iii. **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to remove the no sweatpants rule from the current dress code to help the teachers in the meantime. Robert Best seconds, some discussion. 3 in favor (Kim Lavalley, Sue Lawton, Robert Best), one opposed (Patty Humphrey), one abstaining (Barbara Comtois), motion passes.
- d. Adopt [Business Curriculum](#)-Mr. McKenzie presents (7:35pm)
- (two minute recess to review current requirements vs charter for technology)
 - Kim Lavalley: The curriculum changes were presented at the May board meeting. Mr. McKenzie presented one change regarding the Digital Portfolio .5 credit. It was determined we are meeting or exceeding what the charter/state ask for, and the kids are meeting the requirements for Digital Portfolio already. Mr. McKenzie agreed the school is meeting or exceeding what the charter/state require.
 - **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to approve the business curriculum, Kim Lavalley seconds, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
- e. Community Outreach Committee (8:03pm)
- **MOTION:** Due to the Committee Chair not being present to present, Kim Lavalley motions to defer this discussion to a later meeting, Barbara Comtois seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
- f. Review Personnel Committee Description and Goals-see [here](#). (8:04pm)
- **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to adopt the policy approved by the Personnel Committee, Sue Lawton seconds, no discussion, 4 in favor, none opposed, Kim Lavalley abstains, motion passes.
- g. National Assessment of Educational Progress-NAEP (8:05)
- i. date of test: February 6, 2019
 - ii. NH DOE letter-Mrs. Lawton confirmed the test date had been announced and the information is available online, see [here](#)

8) Faculty Report: See [here](#). (8:10pm)

- a. Mrs. Cormier not present to present the report, so Robert Best reads it aloud.

9) New Business: (8:11pm)

- a. no new business

10) Non-public session: (8:12pm)

_____ RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

_____ RSA 91-A:3 II (d)

_____ RSA 91-A:3 II (I)

- a. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to enter non-public session for the three reasons, RSA 91-A:3 II ©, RSA 91-A:3 II (d), and RSA 91-A:3 II (I), Sue Lawton seconds. Roll called: Robert Best: aye. Kim Lavallee: aye. Patty Humphrey: aye. Sue Lawton: aye. Barbara Comtois: aye. None opposed, motion passes.
- b. **MOTION:** Upon exiting closed session, Kim Lavallee motions to seal the minutes, Barbara Comtois seconds. Roll called: Robert Best: aye. Kim Lavallee: aye. Patty Humphrey: aye. Sue Lawton: aye. Barbara Comtois: aye. None opposed, motion passes.
 - i. in the non-public session the board adopted some recommendations of the Personnel Committee
 - ii. in the non-public session the board approved a lease agreement.
- c. **MOTION:** at 8:30pm Barbara Comtois motions to close the meeting, Sue Lawton seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

11) Next Meeting September 19, 2018 at 5:30 PM