



## **The Founders Academy**

**January 3, 2019 5:30 pm** Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Robert Best, Patty Humphrey, Kim Lavallee, Sue Lawton, Barbara Comtois, Kristy Ouellette, Matt Mercier, Jane Cormier, Connor MacFarland, Maureen Mooney, Lauren Brouillette

Meeting called to order 5:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Robert Best

Moment of Silence: Robert Best

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

1. Public Comments: See Policy [BEDH](#) (5:38pm)
  - a. Michael Lawton: spoke about the opportunity to look forward and to reflect on the school's success, not to dwell on bad opinions. Not all parents feel that way.
  - b. Hillary Breault: Reiterated Mr. Lawton's point that the bad opinions don't speak for everyone. She is very happy and so is her child.
  - c. Maura Ryan: spoke on policy elements in agenda, specifically dress code and restraint policy.
  - d. Patrice Benard: Spoke on treasurer's report, dean's report, test scores, restraint policy, changes to BEDH policy.
  - e. (Board approves extending comments time to accommodate last speaker) Linda Scott: spoke on funding and staffing for guidance department.

Chairman Best gives update on charter renewal process; as of December 13th, our charter has been extended by 3 months, due to the State being behind in their process.

2. Secretary's Report (5:54pm)
  - a. [October 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes](#)
  - b. **MOTION**: Patty Humphrey motions to approve the October minutes, Matt Mercier seconds, Kristy Ouellette, Patty Humphrey, Kim Lavallee, Robert Best, Matt Mercier in favor, Barbara Comtois and Sue Lawton abstain, motion passes.
3. Treasurer's Report: See [here](#) (5:56pm)

- a. Barbara Comtois presents:
    - i. We did budget for 380 students and are currently at 339.
    - ii. We are now using the accrual method for all financial reporting. It looks like we are at a loss of \$80,000 in the year so far, but there are multiple grants and contributions not reflected in the current numbers that bring it down to a loss of \$10,000; after reviewing the fundraising activity it is closer to a positive of \$10,000. This report only goes until November 30th.
  - b. **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to approve the report, Patty Humphrey seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
4. Dean's Report: See [here](#) (5:58pm)
- a. Dean Mooney presents.
  - b. Greg McKenzie presents overview of standardized test results for the school.
    - i. [State Report](#)
    - ii. [Middle School Score Overview](#)
    - iii. A factor that is new this year is counting students who opted out of the tests as having a score of zero. This is averaged in with the overall scores.
    - iv. Founders is a small school and approximately 20% of students did not take the test. This will have an impact on our scores. He hopes to see more participation in the future.
5. Faculty Representative's Report: See [here](#) (6:56pm)
- a. Jane Cormier presents.
6. Student Trustee's Report: See [here](#) (7:00pm)
- a. Connor MacFarland presents.
7. Board Business: (7:01pm)
- a. Policy [JKAA](#)
    - i. Mooney: this policy is a requirement from the state.
    - ii. **MOTION:** Sue Lawton motions to adopt the policy, Kristy Ouellette seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
  - b. Policy [BEDH](#)
    - i. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to adopt the policy, Matt Mercier seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
    - ii. Mooney: this policy allows every person who signs up to speak the opportunity to to so, instead of trying to fit all the speakers within 10 minutes.
    - iii. Ouellette: everyone at the policy committee meeting was in favor of this change; the goal is to make sure everyone who wishes to speak will be heard. It will be agenda item #8 before the official end of the meeting so that all the members are still present and all the business is concluded. There will not be a limit on the number of speakers allowed to comment.

8. New Business: (7:08pm)

a. Dress Code

- i. Ms. Stewart asked to comment.
    - 1. The kids gave a presentation, they talked to round tables, gathered verbal and written data, and overall simplified the rules especially on pants, and took out gender specific language.
  - ii. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to adopt the dress code, Kristy Ouellette seconds. Sue Lawton, Kristy Ouellette, Patty Humphrey, Kim Lavallee, Robert Best, Barbara Comtois in favor, none opposed, Matt Mercier abstains, motion passes.
  - iii. Dean Mooney will amend the dress code section of the Student Handbook to fit the new changes, but will not change the dance specific dress code.
- b. Ouellette: reads a policy regarding a recommendation for daily physical activity to get feedback. It is a recommendation from the Board to the staff and parents and students, not mandatory and time will not be set aside during the school day for this but suggestions will be offered periodically regarding physical activity. The school currently offers PE in many grades.
- i. Mercier and Humphrey: concerned if the school needs to add this to the schedule or is it a recommendation. People are in charge of their own physical welfare, it doesn't seem appropriate for the school to interfere.
  - ii. Ouellette: the policy committee has reviewed the language. It will be posted for public review and comment. It will be on the agenda for February.

9. Non-public session: (7:27pm)

- a. **MOTION:** Patty Humphrey motions to enter non-public section to receive legal advice pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (I). Barbara Comtois seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.
- b. **MOTION:** Upon exiting closed session, Barbara Comtois motions to seal records of the non-public session, Kristy Ouellette seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

11. Next Meeting on February 20, 2019.