

Board Meeting Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm

In Attendance: Robert Best (Chair), Patty Humphrey (Vice-Chair), Scott Perron (Secretary), Sue Lawton, Kimberly Lavalley, Kyle Fox, Jane Cormier (faculty rep), Cassie Hayes (ex officio).

Absent: Barbara Comtois (Treasurer)

Call to Order: 5:33pm (Bob B.)

Pledge of Allegiance (led by Connor MacFarland)

Moment of Silence (Bob B.)

Reading of the [Mission Statement](#) (Bob B.)

1. **Secretary's Report** 5:49pm (Scott P.)

a. [April 21, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

There was a question regarding roll call; 91-A:3, IIC was cited and amendments will be made to the minutes.

Motion: to accept the minutes as written with amendment made by Kyle Fox, seconded by Sue Lawton.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion passed 6/0/0

2. **Treasurer's Report:** See [here](#) 5:53pm (Kim L.)

Nothing new to be noted.

Grants were awarded due to Covid. There have been new hires, including a paraprofessional. Four new HVAC units had been installed at a cost of \$60k each.

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's report as presented made by Sue Lawton, seconded by Scott Perron.

All in favor, none opposed.

Motion passed 6/0/0

3. **Dean's Report:** See [here](#) 5:49pm (Dean Hayes)

- Dean Hayes gave the floor to Mr. Mazzone for the **Student Services update**.
- Mr. Mazzone reported that he and the two school counselors have done an immense amount of work contacting and meeting with every current 8th grade student at Founders.
- Of 73 students invited, 48 families responded via email or teleconference.
- Mr. Mazzone reported that 22 students have confirmed that they are returning to Founders for the next academic year, 16 are transferring out, and 10 are undecided.
- Mr. Mazzone also reported that Student Services is still short staffed. An offer has been made for a special educator for the Academic school year 21/22. One new paraprofessional has been hired and started this week.
- Selection is on its way to hire a new school counselor
- Dean Hayes turned the floor over to Dr. Tyrie for her **Director of Faculty report**.
- Dr. Tyrie reported that all SAS testing is complete
- 7th and 8th grade had 57% participation; 11th grade had 77% participation
- Dr. Tyrie reported that she has made extensive visits to each classroom and will have a completed a summative evaluation by May 22, 2021

- May 14th was a Professional development day; the first time all teachers were in the same room; each person masked sitting 4 to a table and with a real sense of community
- Dr. Tyrie reported that the Round Table pilot has come to an end for the school year. She also stated that Mr. Dupont did a remarkable job with the kick off video for each of the last 2 Round Table themes
- At 6:09pm Dean Hayes took the floor for the **Admissions Update**
- At this time there are 146 application for the 2021/22 school year, 120 of the complete (meaning all paperwork from parents has been completed and turned in)
- Founders Academy had its first in person Open House on May 11, which Dean Hayes stated was “the best experience of the year”. The next in person Open House is scheduled for June 8, 2021
- The goal for the upcoming school year is 400 students
- April and May were record breaking months for incoming applications
- There is a Memorial Day fundraiser coming up to honor deceased military personnel. All Round Tables are invited to participate at a cost of \$20 per flag purchased. The Board of Directors agreed to match all Round Table donations
- 50% of proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Yellow Ribbon Charity
- June 1st will be the Memorial Day assembly
- Dean Hayes reported that the Manchester Transit Authority (MHT) has told us that they will remain picking students up at the hubs through the end of this year and will likely be the model for the 21/22 school year
- The MHT will be meeting with each school individually to discuss needs
- It was stated by Mr. Best that the law requires that the MHT use the same busing for charter school as they do for other public schools and that using the hub model is not fair or reasonable
- Dean Hayes reported that faculty and staff were spoiled during Teacher Appreciation week. There were gift cards given to every staff member, coffee every morning, as well as gift basket raffles and other fun activities for the staff. **THANK YOU PTSG!!**
- The Administration also gave each teacher and staff member a Founders mask to show their school pride at all end of year events
- There is a list of all end of year events included in the Dean’s report
- Dean Hayes gave out thank yous to the PTSG, Mrs. Meilleur for completing the yearbook, the Admission department and volunteers for a very successful open house, Ms. Mote for senior project wrap up, and NHS and PTSG for their spring clean up - THANK YOU!
- CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Marcotte for becoming a Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching finalist! And to Logan Forcier for advancing to the semi-final round of the Dean’s List award in FIRST Robotics!

4. Faculty Representative's Report: 6:45pm (Jane Cormier)

- a. Transitions this quarter for teachers and students.
 - i. Ms. Cormier reported that the teachers prioritized well throughout the school year. There was more positivity and all faculty worked very well together this year. The faculty was unified, committed, and went above and beyond what needed to be done
- b. Performing Arts Events
- c. Chorus Field Trip May 21
 - i. Trip to Chunkys for a movie night
- d. Teachers are working to complete the school year in a positive upbeat fashion

- i. Teachers have done well to stay positive for the students. They have shown incredible character even when it hasn't been easy. It is important to be that example for the students

5. Student Trustee's Report: See here 6:53pm (Connor MacFarland)

- a. A field trip is planned for Chuckster's in Chester on May 27
- b. 2 anonymous donations have come in to help defray the cost
- c. They are also doing fundraising for the trip
- d. The Board applauded Connor for his work as the Student trustee and thanked him for the last 3 years of service – today is his last Board meeting

6. Board Business: 5:35pm (Kelly and Stephanie from Nathan Wechsler)

- a. Audit Presentation
 - o The audit presentation was moved to the first item of business on the agenda.
 - o It was reported that Duncan Ray will be added to the team for the upcoming audit year
 - o Kelly & Stephanie reviewed with the Board that they look at all the important risk factors as they approach the audit including revenue, large contributions, cash and material reconciliations, receivables, and allowances.
 - o The plan for the audit last all during the year not just during the academic year
- b. PTSG Report 6:54pm (read by Scott P.)
 - All great news coming from the PTSG including an in person send off on June 5th. There will also be a basket raffle for all new or renewing members that sign up through June 2021; winner will be drawn in June
 - A special thanks to Toni Cabral and Wendy Durham for the organization of Teacher Appreciation week
 - Monies were shared with the Math department, NHS, House of Reps field day, student recognition, and school beautification
- c. **Mission Committee Report 7pm** (Patty H.)
- d. House of Representatives field day is coming along well. There is a great group of students doing a lot of the work and coming up with great ideas
- e. The internal Mission Committee is working on the Portrait of a Graduate and a part of the code of ethics is being adopted each month and put into action
- f. Mrs. Humphrey reported that the work with the Student Senate and the level of commitment throughout the year has been very encouraging. The students are showing a great sense of responsibility and have grown a lot – with a lot of thanks going to Mr. Weekley for his support throughout the school year

7. New Business: 7:07pm

There was no new business to report

8. Public Comments: See Policy [BEDH](#) 7:09pm (Bob B.)

Bob started this section by reading the policy for Public comments

- 7:10pm – **Josh McDonough** shared that he has always been interested in TFA; it was his first choice of schools as far back as he can remember
- He implored the Board to listen to the students' opinions and ideas
- He stated that one thing that drew him to the school was how the school was unique and had a character that other schools do not have
- Mr. McDonough shared how he was afraid that the school is losing its uniqueness and character

- He also mentioned that teachers fear that sharing their opinions for fear of losing their jobs
- Mr. McDonough implored the Board to please reconsider the path and direction that we are on
- 7:13pm - **Eleni Broulidakis**, a Founders alumni, stated that she felt the students aren't allowed to voice their opinions to the Board
- Ms. Broulidakis was concerned about the rate of faculty turnover at Founders. She stated that there should be more communication between the Board and faculty to make a stronger connection and a safer environment to work

9. Non-public session: 7:15pm -

According to 91-A:3, IIC a vote was taken to move into the non-public session.

Motion: to move into non-public session

All in favor, none opposed

Motion passed 6/0/0

During the non public session a motion was made to approve the hiring of three additional staff members by Kyle and seconded by Kim. Unanimous approval 6/0/0.

A motion was made by Kim Lavalley to pursue advancing a charter amendment which was seconded by Patty. Vote was unanimous 6/0/0.

Non-public session ended at 8:40 pm and the minutes were sealed by unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn was made by Patty and seconded by Kim. Unanimous vote to adjourn 6/0/0.

Meeting adjourned by Bob at 8:52 pm.

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm