



Board Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Robert Best (Chair), Patty Humphrey (Vice-Chair), Scott Perron, Kyle Fox, , Kimberly Lavallee, Sabeena Mori (Student Rep), and Cassie Hayes (ex officio).

Not in Attendance: Barbara Comtois (Treasurer), Sue Lawton (Secretary), Kate Robichaud (Faculty Rep)

Call to Order: 7:03pm (Patty H)

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence
- Reading of the [Mission Statement](#)

- **Mission Discussion Question: 7:11pm**

Alexis de Tocqueville famously said, “Americans are so enamored of equality, they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom.” Is this accurate, in your view? Has there been a shift in emphasis from equal opportunity to equal outcomes in the US today, especially in the field of education? If so, is that a detriment to liberty and high standards? How do we resolve the conflict between liberty and equality in our culture?

- It was stated that most Americans don’t value liberty as much as equality. People are willing to give up liberty to gain equality
- The definition of equality has changed since the 1800’s. How do we define liberty? We all deserve equal opportunities, but it is our choice what we decide to do with those opportunities
- Outcomes are determined by the child (person). US education focuses too much on outcomes. We need to provide opportunities and see what the students will do with them
- Mastery is a defined outcome. Equal opportunity is very important – more so than equal outcomes
- We take special steps to ensure equality – not always good or bad. Equal opportunity is synonymous with liberty. The idea of equal outcomes is not possible. True equality cannot be created
- Going into a town meeting or voting, we are all equal. The problem with trying to ensure equality is that some people are not allowed to soar

The question came up as to whether the Board wanted to continue these discussions and the Board members decided that the discussions were a good thing, as long as they had the question(s) ahead of time so they could put some thought into their answers.

1. **Public Comments:** (See Policy [BEDH](#)) 7:04pm (policy read by Kim L.)
- **Elizabeth S.** had questions regarding the budget and where grant money was spent. She also mentioned that we should consider updating the lower cafe for events and open houses; the chairs don’t match and some need replacing. We need to make a good first impression on our guests and present our best foot forward.
- **Michelle S.** mentioned how much better the parking lot situation is at early dismissal (2:25pm) than it was previously. The Dean took action immediately upon hearing there was a safety issue with the way cars were parking and students walking through the parking lot etc. Some cars would block in other cars, and Michelle said it was

exponentially safer and overall much better than it was. Michelle also was excited to share that she received her acceptance letter for her daughter entering the 5th grade in the fall and her daughter could not be more excited to come to Founders.

2. Secretary's Report: (Bob B.) 7:37pm

- **Motion** to accept the minutes as written was made by Kim L
- **Second** by Scott P.
- **Motion passed** 5/0/0

3. Treasurer's Report: (Kim L. & Cassie H.) 7:47pm

a. [Board Budget Report for FY 2021-2022 Period Covered July 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022](#)

- **Motion** to approve the budget 7.1.21 - 1.31.22 made by Kyle F.
- **Second** by Scott P.
- **Motion passed** 5/0/0

b. [2022-2023 Budget Review](#)

- The budget for the 2022-23 school year was built on 435 students. We are currently at 380 students based on preliminary data.
- With the 5th grade there will be an increase in staff including 3 additional teachers and a guidance counselor. The Dean plans to go in with a strong 5th grade program
- Our Business Manager has worked on the budget and is ensuring that the \$600k grant is being spent appropriately and accurately. Some of the grant money is being used for furniture, tech and chromebook supplies, salaries, advertising, Title I, II, and III, and roof repairs
- There was discussion regarding health insurance changes, teacher pay raises, janitorial expenses, and our software (Rediker) license
- Kim L. mentioned that Rediker is very antiquated, not very user friendly, and doesn't 'speak' to other systems. Cassie H. did state that Rediker is less expensive than other database systems.
- It was suggested that we check with other charter schools to see what they are using that might be easier and less cumbersome than Rediker
- It was asked whether or not we could save on professional development or any other areas
- It was stated that when we build the budget for 435 students, it is important to get to 435 students.
- Goal for the annual budget will be \$30k
- The Board would like to contribute more to the school and some suggestions, other than financially, were through labor, through participation in school events, through their individual and business contacts, and through new and creative ideas
- It was mentioned that in other charter schools, at every open house or any other event that the school has, there is an annual fund table as a way of keeping the annual fund in the forefront of everyone's mind. Kim L. volunteered to man the table and ask for donations

4. Dean's Report 8:35pm (Cassie H.): [here](#)

- Cassie H. introduced Gini Nichols, a Founders math teacher to speak about a new math course they would like to introduce. Ms. Nichols stated that all students learn differently.
- The new math course will be taught over a 2 year period and will teach algebra and geometry together so they can see the connection (integrated math). The students must commit to 2 years

- There was a discussion with Ms. Nichols about who decides the curriculum? Is it the Board? The Administration?
- Ms. Nichols would like to offer this course to students who want a different math class. Some students learn differently and integrated math works really well for some students
- The curriculum committee will review integrated math and make the decision as to whether to offer the class or not
- 9:15am - Christine T. stated that Greg M. set up a database to track students' grades 3 times a year and year to year. This will allow all students to participate and it may be a great indicator of how students are doing vs. SAS testing
- MobyMax is an online testing program where problems start out simple and progress to more difficult questions as they go along. It will show what grade level they are at and can be compared three times a year and year to year and can be integrated into the classroom

Admissions update:

- 9th grade is closed and there are some students wait listed already
- 36 families showed up for the Open House on 3/15 and 4 applications were completed that evening
- Seven (7) MTA buses around the city will have our Founders advertising on it - keep an eye out for them!
- There will be 6 Fisher Cats games
- We have advertised in the North End Living magazine (1500 subscribers)
- Mr. Tellier asked his students, as part of their midterm, to create a question and formulate an answer to that question. The question that one student wrote was "Why is following the leadership Code of Conduct important?" In the interest of time, Dean Hayes did not read the answer, but will share it with the Board so they can see what a great response it was.
- A Culture and Climate committee has been formed. This group will research a different approach to discipline in the school, will receive feedback from the teachers, and try to grow the culture and climate of the building
- The Board is welcome to attend and to give feedback
- John Stark Day will be coming up soon. We are planning a scavenger hunt again this year because last year's was a huge success. There will also be a virtual event. The links for registration and sponsorship are in the link (above)
- Thank you's go out to Student Services
- We had a great highschool winter game night
- The chorus concert was great
- And the Parent Advisory committee did a great job!

5. Faculty Representative's Report 9:33pm (Cassie H. for Kate R.): [here](#)

- Pi day went great - there were 100 pies!
- Kim L. sat in on one of Kate R.'s classes
- Patty H. also sat in on one of Kate R.'s Round Tables

6. Student Trustee's Report 7:39pm (Sabeena Mori): [here](#)

- The students are excited about their high school field trip to Six Flags
- The Senate is working on the Spring Fling - their largest money maker for the school. All the families love being involved
- There have been bathroom issues in the school and the back bathrooms have been locked leaving only the front bathrooms and 6th grade wing bathrooms open. There was a proposal that the highschoolers have their own bathroom and Middle schoolers

have their own. The problem is, there is not a body to monitor that only high school students use the high school bathroom.

- Students should be self-regulating and being responsible to keep the bathrooms clean and neat
- The Student Senate has been helping the PTSG with Teacher Appreciation
- Students like the one way hallways even beyond Covid - they want to keep the hallways

7. Board Business:

a. PTSG Report 9:35pm (Elizabeth S.)

- i. Staff appreciation is going well. Texas Roadhouse donated 50 baked potatoes for the staff potato bar (which was a big hit)
- ii. Penny wars brought in \$676 Ms. Minor/Mrs. Galambos had the most pennies. Ms Robichaud raised the most money

b. Mission Report 9:41pm(Patty H. & Cassie H.)

- i. May 6th the whole school is going on a field trip. High school students are making their choice of three locations via survey, middle school students are making their choice of four locations via survey. Surveys are due 3/18

c. Covid Update 9:45pm(Cassie H.)

- i. There have been ZERO cases of Covid in the school building since we've been back from February break
- ii. Masks have remained optional - the students have been amazing
- iii. Dean Hayes is very proud of the students; they are on a really great track
- iv. Dean Hayes suggested that the Covid update section of the Board meeting agenda - Everyone agreed wholeheartedly!

8. New Business:

No new business

9. Non-Public Session:

No public session

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - **NEW START TIME 6:30pm**