



Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm

In attendance: Robert Best (Chair), Kim Lavallee (Vice Chair) via zoom, Patty Humphrey (Secretary) via zoom, Kyle Fox (Treasurer), Frank Weiss, John Bauer (via zoom), Cassie Hayes (ex officio)

Call to Order: (Bob B.) 6:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance (Bob B.)

Moment of Silence (Bob B.)

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

1. **Public Comments:** (See Policy [BEDH](#)) 6:39pm

- a. Mr Roy is the grandparent of two Founders students (7th and 9th graders) and has been involved with Founders for a couple of years. Mr. Roy has been active in the American Legion, he is a Navy veteran, and has been involved in the Boys State Oratorical Contest with Founders students. Mr. Roy expressed an interest in becoming a Board member and the Board agreed to invite him to join the Board. Mr. Roy stated that he has a great idea for fundraising; he is looking into charitable gambling as he has seen it prove successful in other areas. The Board agreed that this could bring in much needed funds

2. **Secretary's Report:** (Patty H.) 6:39pm

- a. [January 18, 2023 Draft Minutes](#)

Motion: To accept the minutes as presented made by John B.

Second: Kim Lavallee

Vote: passed 6/0/0

3. **Treasurer's Report:** (Kyle F.) 7:33pm

[December Graphs](#)

- Kyle presented the financials and explained that TFA is on an identical trend on the income side with the expenditure side being slightly higher than last year.
- Revenue is higher than expected.
- One of the goals of the Board is how to compensate for the teachers' great work. They will continue to discuss budgets and making faculty raises priority. Discussion will be done with the Finance Committee.
- There was discussion of fundraising to help support this goal

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as presented made by Patty H.

Second: Frank Weiss

Vote: Passed 6/0/0

4. Dean's Report: (Cassie H.)

a. See [here](#)

- Dean of Students Report presented by Mr. Mihaly - 6:52pm
- Mr. Mihaly is the Dean of Students for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.
- Most recently there has been a slight restlessness among the students. The structure that has been in place since September 2022 is holding fast, still being implemented, and working.
- Mr. Mihaly reported that all DOS are working with the school counselors regarding student behavior and consequences issued.
- School counselors and DOS are keeping a close eye on students not making mastery so the student(s) has time to work things out. They are reaching out to the students and parents so there are no surprises.
- They have also reached out to families that may be food insecure to support those students who might qualify for extra food support.
- Student Services Report presented by Mrs. Smith - 6:55pm
- Mrs. Smith reported that she has been very busy and it's a very exciting time for seniors especially.
- It's been a busy time with students needing support. All faculty, DOS, and school counselors are holding fast to the disciplines that were set in place in September ensuring that students are aware that there will be consequences for inappropriate behaviors.
- Three seniors have committed to colleges - their first choice! One to Saint Anselm College, one to Rhode Island University, and one to Champlain College.
- Mrs. Smith is going over all transcripts with Mr. McKenzie to ensure that all students know exactly what is expected for graduation.
- During School Counselor week, Dean Hayes bought lunch for all the counselors and gave them a 'walkie free' hour, which was VERY much appreciated by all the counselors.
- Mrs. Smith has revamped the video presentation for high school information night.
- Mrs. Smith expressed her love for her job and that the students are great to work with.
- Dean Hayes expressed her thanks to Mrs. Smith for always being 'on' all day, every day. Many parents and students are very thankful for Mrs. Smith; a great addition to the school.
- Dr. Tyrie's Report - 7:07pm
- Dr. Tyrie gave an update on Mobie Max assessment results, which tracks students' progress.
- Students who participated in the assessment from the beginning of the year to mid-year showed a small improvement.
- Dr. Tyrie mentioned that during the Covid years, students lacked social structure and have had some difficulty adjusting to being in a school atmosphere. She is optimistic that improvements will become greater as the school year progresses.

- The faculty is working very hard on the foundation of academics; looking at the feedback from the tests.
- The 5th grade classes each have approximately 30 students with 2 teachers working with students to co-teach the classes; it is a model that has worked well since its implementation – it has been more successful with 2 teachers in the classroom.
- They have found that the 5th graders need support academically, socially and behaviorally. This is the best use of our personnel at this time for the success of the students.
- Dean Hayes stated that it has been difficult hiring teachers and Dr. Tyrie is always willing to step up to teach and is teaching 4 classes currently.
- **Admissions Update** – Cassie H. – 7:35pm
- As stated in the attached report, the Admissions Department is doing well and continuing to receive applications.
- Beginning in March, Dean Hayes has committed to having a meeting with each of the families that have been accepted to ensure the parents and students fully understand the expectations as a student of Founders.
- The Board is interested in providing full transparency to families to help them make a decision for their student about attending the school. The mission and academic expectations are included in this information.
- Congrats to the Admissions team for their hard work.
- There were lots of nominations for Student of the Semester.
- The Student of the Semester for Middle School was Josie P. For high school it was David K.
- Teacher of the semester was Ms. Spain.
- John Stark Day planning is underway. Two speakers will be joining Founders; Christie Ellsworth to speak about the History of John Stark and that historic time period, and Leah DiPietro, a former student, will speak about her role in the legislative process.

5. **Faculty Representative's Report:** (Kate R.) 7:20pm

- a. See [here](#)
- Ms. R. reported that our students have a lot of musical talent.
- Several students, including Colton G., Oliver W., and Asher H were accepted into the NH South Central District Middle School Honors Band. Alex S. was accepted into the NH State Middle School Honors Orchestra.
- Jack L. was the first Founders student accepted to the All-State Jazz Band. He participated in a 3-day Jazz Festival in February.
- Chris S. and Jack L. were selected to participate in the NH All-State Chamber Festival in January.
- Four students were selected for the NH All-State Music Festival held in Concord; Chris S., Jack L., Sabeena M., and Emily B. For Chris, Jack, and Sabeena, this is the 2nd year in a row that they have been accepted into this festival.
- April 13th @6pm will be a combined induction ceremony into the NJHS and NHS and the Board is invited to attend (held at Founders Academy).
- Two teachers from Founders have been nominated for the 2024 NH Teacher of the year – Mr. Gerrit Morse and Ms. Kate Robichaud

- Madame Horan and her french students hosted the World Cafe in February as a gift to the 10th – 12th graders and was very well received.
 - The board said to please pass along their congratulations and expressed how impressed they are with the accomplishments of our students.
6. Student Trustee's Report: (read by Dean Hayes) 7:59pm
- a. Report from Dean Hayes
 - Dean Hayes reported that she is working with the student Senate to bring the Board information that they are interested in hearing. The Board would like to hear about what students find enjoyable at the school, why do students stay, how can we make the school better and other things that impact the students. What do you tell your friends that don't attend TFA about why you come here?
 - The Senate students will work on initiatives such as the high school field trip and senior day.
7. Board Business: (various presenters) 8:07pm
- a. Mission Report – nothing for tonight's meeting
 - b. [PTSG Report](#) (Dean Hayes reporting) 8:07pm
 - As presented in the report, the PTSG supplied Mr. Mac's for lunch on the staff development day in January and was very well received by all the staff.
 - Planning for a lunch for staff development day in March as well.
 - Scratch ticket raffle planned for kick off in March and will run through May
 - Next general meeting is scheduled for March 7th at 6:30pm at the school.
 - c. **Fundraising Committee** follow up (Dean Hayes) 8:11pm
 - A flyer has been created to market the school – it was questioned whether it would be a good resource for potential donors. The general thought is we may need several different types of marketing materials for different purposes.
 - Patty H. would like to raise \$100k next year – with an all hands on deck approach.
 - Kyle F. mentioned that he reached out to a colleague who is creative and does videos for various projects. He may be able to help with fundraising efforts.
 - d. **Legislative Update** (Bob B.) 8:17pm
 - HB272 sponsored by Maureen Mooney – championing for TFA and all charter schools. It is a bill that will increase a funding for charter schools to \$9k per student.
 - The committee reduced the original amount by \$500.
 - The bill was adopted by an 18/2 vote and now has to pass through the Finance committee and then pass the House. This is a long process and support from everyone is needed.
 - The Governor wants to increase aid and also add funding to free and reduced lunches. He is 100% behind the \$9k for charter students.
 - It is likely that if this bill does pass it won't be until, at the earliest, the fall of 2023 but more likely for the school year 2024/25, which all affects how TFA sets their budget.
 - The House and Senate review the budget and there is a lot of discussion and both the House and Senate have to approve it/typically around June

or July. Once both the House & Senate approve it, the Governor signs it. There are lots of hearings and committee meetings of which the committee watches it all very carefully.

- Employees and parents can go online to support the funding and passing of this bill. We need more voices to be heard; we need people to go to the committee meetings and explain why this important. Notice for hearings can be on short notice; sometimes less than a week.
- The number one priority in receiving this money would be salary increases for faculty.
- Mr. Bauer will use his voice as a parent to educate other parents about this bill and to get the word out.
- With 5k students there should be more than 638 signers.
- We need to show that we have a strong voice and convey to faculty that raises for them are our #1 priority.

8. New Business: 8:57pm

- The phone system was discussed. There was to be a meeting in January for an update on the phone system. Some things need to be replaced, but not the entire system.
- Phones are currently working.
- No quote has been given to Cassie H. yet; she will follow up this week.
- The Board thanked Mr. Roy for joining the meeting and his interest in becoming a Board member.
- The Board is in the process of reviewing the policy regarding parent/family membership.
- The Board is looking to fill 2 more of the 3 parent/family member spots on the Board.
- If a parent is interested in becoming a Board member, they should be considered.
- It was suggested that we should not let the process get in the way of great, supportive parents.
- The Board is interested in Mr. Roy as a Board member and more discussion will be had to determine next steps.
- The Board will invite Mr. Roy back for next month's Board meeting.
- All interested candidates should submit their information to the Board and plan to attend the next Board meeting.
- The Charter renewal is 1 year from now. Starting March 15th, this should be added to the agenda every month.

9. Non-Public Session:

Held at 5:30pm

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30pm

Motion: To adjourn for the evening made by Frank Weiss

Second: Kim Lavalley

Vote: Passed 6/0/0

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm