



Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

In attendance: Robert Best (Chair), Kim Lavalley (Vice Chair), Patty Humphrey (Secretary), Kyle Fox (Treasurer), Frank Weiss, Angela Seggie, Cassie Hayes (ex officio)

Non-Public Session (5:30 – 6:30pm)

Call to Order: (Bob B.) 6:45pm

Pledge of Allegiance (Bob B.)

Moment of Silence (Bob B.)

Reading of the [Mission Statement](#) (Cassie H.)

- Before the start of the Public Comments, Chairman Best allowed Angela Seggie to read her letter of resignation from the Board effective January 18th following the regular Board meeting. The letter stated that after much conversation and careful deliberation, her family has decided to send her daughter, Sophia, to Goffstown high school starting January 23, 2023. For the past 6 years Sophia has been in charter schools, which has prepared her tremendously well for her next big adventure. She stated that this was not an easy decision and thanked the Board and Dean Hayes for their support. Mrs. Seggie stated that it has been a great experience not just for her daughter, but for the entire family and it will be difficult to leave.
 - The Board wished the family well, thanked them for all their participation and service to the school. It was also mentioned that Sophia has grown and matured since starting at Founders and she has overcome obstacles and become a fine young lady who can be proud of herself and all she's accomplished.
1. **Public Comments:** (See Policy [BEDH](#)) 6:57pm
 - Sophia S. feels that being at a charter school for so long has taught her that she can be who she is. She stated that she found herself as a result of being at a charter school. Academically she is ahead of her peers and will be going into honor classes at Goffstown high school. She said she will miss Founders and the friends she's made, but is looking forward to her new adventure.
 2. **Secretary's Report:** (Patty H.) 7:23pm
 - a. [November 30, 2022 Board Meeting Agenda Draft](#)
 - **Motion:** To accept the meeting minutes with one minor change made by Patty H.
 - **Second:** made by Angela S.
 - **Vote:** Passed 6/0/0

3. **Treasurer's Report:** (Kyle F.) 7:28pm

- a. [Board Budget Report for FY 2022- 2023 Period Covered 7/1/2022 through 11/30/2022](#)
 - b. [FY23 Income Budget through November 2022](#)
 - c. [FY23 Expense Budget through November 2022](#)
- Kyle F. reviewed his reports and graphs. One thing that was mentioned was that there are still phone issues. Dean Hayes, Kyle F., and Frank W. had a meeting on December 22, 2022 with Acapella (the phone contractor) to discuss the issues and all three reported that it was a very good and productive meeting. Good news is that the handsets are all in good condition and do not need replacement. Acapella is putting together a proposal on how to update the system for better performance. There will be a meeting sometime in January to review the proposal.
 - It was confirmed that 911 calls cannot be made from the current landline if the phones go down, so it is being looked into to get a dedicated 911 line for the school. Frank W., who knows phone systems from his previous positions, stated that the infrastructure is great and there are no problems with all connections. It was agreed that the school needs consistently good phone service and that is the focus.
 - **Motion:** To accept the Treasurer's report as present made by Patty H.
 - **Second:** by Frank W.
 - **Vote:** Passed 6/0/0

4. **Dean's Report:** (Mr. Belanger DOS 5th & 6th grades) 7pm

- a. See [here](#)
- Mr. Belanger reported that he met with all the Deans of Students and reviewed behavior issues. It was stated that the negative behaviors are trending in a better direction than in September.
 - Teachers have been consistently reviewing class management styles and sharing ideas.
 - After school detentions have changed in a positive way as well, with not as many as they've had previously; less 'frequent flyers'. It was reported that there has been a bit of a culture change among the students and things are trending in a good direction.
 - Dean Hayes stated that Mr. Belanger is very proactive with the students and is pivotal in building a positive environment with the students and has a great rapport with them.

Student Services (Cassie H.) 7:39pm

- Dean Hayes reported that Ms. Smith (HS Guidance Counselor) has been great with preparing the students for college preparation. She put up a beautiful display in the hallway of all the colleges that students this current year have been accepted to. The Board members took a walk down the hall to take a look at the wall; they were quite impressed.

Asst Dean's Report (Cassie H.) 7:46pm

- Dean Hayes reported and reviewed that Dr. Tyrie informed the Board of the \$3k gift that Subaru gave to the school. Dean Hayes distributed the funds across the Science and Art departments, as those departments typically have the biggest need for supplies.
- The biggest challenge this year has been in hiring new teachers. Dean Hayes has had to be creative in the way things are structured especially in Math and Science.
- Dr. Tyrie has been working with all the teachers on creating a new structure for new teachers so as to have a successful transition. Some of the newer teachers need a bit more material and support and seasoned teachers have been more creative and are sharing their ideas and support to the newer teachers.
- Some of the paraprofessionals have been teaching one or two classes. They have been able to watch the seasoned teachers and are learning from them.

Admissions (Cassie H) 7:53pm

- March 15th will be the close of open admissions.
- The last Open house was very well attended and very successful with 27 families in attendance. Fourteen of those families have not yet applied, which shows that this open house was heavy on newer families.
- Sue Forsyth has been doing an excellent job in contacting every family that attended to help them through the admissions process and answer any and all questions that arise. She follows up on every inquiry that comes into the school.
- There is a School Choice fair at the Doubletree Hotel with over 600 people anticipated to attend and Founders Academy will be there to represent.
- The MLK Assembly was very successful. The students ran the entire program from set up to reading descriptions and quotes of the day.
- Mid-term week has an adjusted schedule. Dean Hayes stated that she was very proud of the students' hard work.
- The staff holiday party is coming up next week.
- Some of the white board walls got a fresh coat of paint over the holiday break.
- There was a 2-day bake sale that was student led and raised over \$300 in 2 days!
- John Stark day is slated for April 10 this year. Mr. Mihaly is planning the assembly. There will be a musical presentation and artwork included.
- There will be the typical scavenger hunt around the city, as it is always a big hit.
- John Stark day for 2024 was discussed and it was suggested that there be a fancy banquet, silent auction, and trivia game of some sort. Planning for that should begin now.

5. Faculty Representative's Report: (Kate R.) 7:19pm

a. See [here](#)

- Ms. R. stated that the first ever Book Fair at Founders was a big success and hopes to do another one next year possibly adding one or two days.
- The winter concerts were last week and people were impressed with the talent at Founders. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Tellier both visited the 5th grade students to talk to them about becoming band members in the future.
- Ms. R. mentioned that she is the mentor for one of the seniors for their senior project. This student is bringing back the vendor fair on April 1st from 9am - 3pm.

6. Student Trustee's Report: (Sophia W.) 7:05pm

- An issue was brought to the Senate that there are middle school students vaping and smoking weed in the high schooler's bathrooms.
- Several members of the student senate have kicked middle schoolers out of their bathrooms on several occasions; they are supposed to use only the middle school bathrooms.
- Several students have reported either seeing students vaping and/or smoking weed in their bathroom or they can smell it when they walk in.
- Some students in the high school have reported that the problem has been going on since September, but recently is getting worse.
- Dean Hayes stated that she has heard reports, but with no cameras in bathrooms, and no way of knowing who these students are, it's hard to give out consequences. Although 5 -10 students have been assigned consequences since the beginning of the school year.
- Sometimes bathrooms are monitored, but there is not enough manpower to monitor them all day long.
- It was also stated that the vaping devices are very small, therefore, very easy for students to hide.

- There are not currently smoke detectors in the bathrooms, but vaping wouldn't set them off anyway.
- Dean Hayes stated that she has been in contact with the Manchester police as well as the National Guard to talk about doing a drug prevention presentation to the student body. They still need to be taught how to behave when grown ups are not around; they need to learn self-regulation.
- The question was brought up as to how to keep the middle school students out of the high school bathrooms. Dean Hayes is going to meet with all the Deans of Students and receive their input and ideas.
- Sophia W. mentioned that aside from this issue she has had a pretty good year so far without any major difficulties.

7. **Board Business:** (Patty H.) 8:09pm.

a. Mission Report- Bill of Rights club!

- i. Ms. Humphrey reported that a Bill of Rights display was put up in the main hallway with the help of Ms. Smith and several students.
- ii. The plan is to make some sort of game with prizes for the students to help them learn the Bill of Rights; all the ideas are still in the works. Ms. H. wants to make it fun for the students to learn the Bill of Rights.

b. PTSG Report - NO PTSG report

8. **New Business:** (Kim L.) 8:10pm

- Kim L. reported that there was a \$5k donation made to the school that will occur every year as long as this donor is alive!
- Kim L. stated that she wrote a nice hand-written thank you to this donor and the Board should do the same.
- Kyle F. told the Board and attendees at the meeting that there will be an airing of the Granite State Challenge on February 9th at 7:30pm on channel 11 (PBS) that may feature a student he knows (his son!).
- He mentioned that it might be a good thing for the Founders Academy to apply to. There is a vetting process and each team of students needs a teacher as their coach. Dean Hayes thought that was a great idea and will mention it to the teachers.
- Ms. Robichaud mentioned that the National Jr. Honor Society is having their Geography/History bee on February 6th at 5:30pm at the school.
- Chairman Best thought now would be a good time to schedule some committee meetings. It was decided that the Finance committee will meet to talk about budget preparation and teacher salaries and the Personnel committee would talk about contracts; this will be a combined meeting on **January 31st at 8am** via zoom.
- The fundraising committee will meet on **February 7th at 8am** via zoom.

9. **Non-Public Session:** Held at 5:30pm..

Motion: to adjourn made by Kim L.

Second: Angela S.

Vote: Passed 6/0/0

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

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