



Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Robert Best, Kimberly Lavalley, Patricia Humphrey (on Zoom), John Bauer, Cassie Hayes (ex officio)

Absent: Frank Weiss, Bill Roy and Kyle Fox

Call to Order: (20 minutes) 6:39 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading of the [Mission Statement](#)

Mission related discussion: Tell the story of a veteran who has impacted your life. This can be someone you know personally or through research. How are veterans examples of good character and what can we learn from them?

- Board members as well as members of the public shared their personal experiences with people in their lives that are veterans. They shared how these veterans have impacted their own lives.

1. Public Comments: (See Policy [BEDH](#))

- a. None

2. Special Guest Presentations: (45 minutes)

- a. Peers Not Fears- Lorraine Connell
 - i. Lorraine Connell is working with our Peer Leadership Group as well as Jennifer Nelson, our Missions Director on creating more opportunities for students to show and express leadership opportunities at Founders. They have created a Community Group that works with grades 5-12 on Wednesdays during Round Table. They work on team building skills, academics, and topic driven ideas (self care, leadership, study skills)
- b. Student Spotlight- Kiara Alvares
 - i. Kiara is a Junior at Founders and began the Buddy Project that connects 11th graders and 5th graders at Founders. The program was inspired by Kiara's younger brother who will be a Founder's student next year and when she was in grade 3 she remembers reading the kindergarten students and really enjoyed it. The Buddy Project at Founders will focus on reading to each other, fun activities, and conversation.

c. [Mission Director Report](#)

- i. Students in Round Tables at the end of quarter 1 completed self reflections based on the September and October focus topics of Respect and Responsibility. Great self reflections!
- ii. The Board recommends looking at Round Tables and the idea of self reflections and character grading. What that might look like for Round Tables.
- iii. Concerns that many students do not “buy in” to Round Table and staff are trying to get the students to understand and to also get support for the teachers. The board recommends reminding students about giving their best effort even when it does not have a grade attached to it. Demonstrating good character needs to occur all the time, not just when someone is watching or you get credit or a reward/grade.
- iv. Veteran’s Day Assembly on Thursday, November 10th. There will be a small reception following the assembly for the Veteran’s as well as some select students.
- v. The Board enquired on what the students take on Veteran’s Day? The response depends upon the age of the students for their understanding of the day. It was expressed that Grade 5 has a Veteran on staff so the group gets some knowledge through having a Veteran.

d. [Dean of Students Report](#) and Mission Feedback

- i. Dean of Students - Jackie Meailleur
- ii. The Deans of Students will be focusing on student grades including those below Mastery and looking at what they can do to support them.
- iii. There has been a significant decrease in incident reports and improved documentation and checking in with teachers - Alma system has been a great feature for tracking many things, this included.
- iv. Mission Feedback
 - 1. There is a simplicity to the format shared and it being broken down is more appealing, It can be more understood by adults and students. The “our” statement is liked and the accessible statements are helpful.
 - 2. Ms. Meuller read her interpretation of the mission.

3. [Student Trustee's Report](#)(10 minutes): see [here](#)

- a. Lila Haney - Senate
- b. Spring Fling returning in the Spring of 2024 via the Senate,
- c. There will be some upcoming movie nights for Fundraising
- d. Fundraising is for the High School Field Trip at the end of the year.
- e. Chairman Best explained the role of a student trustee on the Board. He said she is welcome to participate in all public discussions- being a part of the meetings and discussions and do everything a voting trustee does except vote. We welcome her feedback and look forward to working with her. We hope she will be a great conduit between the students and the Board.

- f. Lila was presented with a challenge by Board members to look at the hallways and bathrooms and how to make them a more orderly and comfortable place for all - this will be presented at the next Senate meeting.
 - g. Dean Hayes stated that she does meet with the Senate President weekly.
- 4. Board Applicants (30 minutes)
 - a. The President of the Board, Robert Best, made an emergency decision to vote on without a quorum so that there would be a quorum to vote on the remainder agenda items as necessary.
 - b. New Board member Leah Gregerson - who will represent the Education and Collegiate Board position which is a 2 year term and begins November 8, 2023 and will end in June of 2025. John Bauer motioned to approve and Kimberly Lavalley seconded with a 4-0-0 approval.
- 5. Secretary's Report: (5 minutes)
 - a. [October 11, 2023 Founders Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)
 - b. Motion to approve the minutes by Kimberly Lavalley and seconded by John Bauer with a 5-0-0 approval.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: (10 minutes)
 - a. [Statement of Financial Position - As of September 30, 2023](#)
 - b. [Board Budget Report, September 2023](#)
 - c. [FY24 Expense Budget thru September.pdf](#)
 - d. [FY24 Revenue Budget thru September.pdf](#)
 - i. Kimberly Lavalley present report in Kyle Fox's absence.
 - ii. Motion to approve by John Bauer with a second from Patricia Humphrey with a 5-0-0 approval.
- 7. Dean's Report(15 minutes): see [here](#)
 - a. Assistant Dean Report by Andrew Mihaly: The staff have been working hard and are very positive about the year. Dean Mihaly was able to get all of the teacher observations completed for quarter 1 and enjoyed seeing the teachers in action while teaching what they are passionate about. On the teacher workshop day teachers focused on reviewing assessment practices. Teachers are comparing objectives for high quality versus low quality assessments. Teachers reviewed the three types of assessments and focused on good practice and building a quality assessment with learning targets, communication with students and parents following assessments
 - b. Student Services Report shared by Dean Hayes.
 - c. All information in the link that Dean Hayes shared with an added piece of information being Founder's Charter Renewal is January 11th with a visit for the day and this will involve, students, parents and teachers and Dean Hayes will be reaching out to individuals
- 8. Faculty Representative's Report(10 minutes): see [here](#)

- a. Representative Kate Robichaud provided information linked above and shared both National Honor Societies and Senate will be volunteering at the Manchester Marathon Race on Sunday, November 12th. They will be at an aid station handing out water and gatorade to runners. This is also a fundraising opportunity for groups at Founders as we were asked to volunteer at other events who donate for supporting their events. The next group to participate is the Prom Committee at the December Santa Shuffle in Manchester.
9. Board Business (45 minutes):
- a. Mission Revisions Discussion
 - i. If the Mission will be updated the suggestion is to have the entire board present for the second discussion. Trustee Bauer indicated he was not ready to make this decision without additional input. Chairman Best said the last discussion sounded like the majority of board members do not want the Mission changed but support the new document with language to support a better understanding of it in the classroom.
 - ii. The interpretative statements were distributed to staff on the November 7th teacher workshop day.
 - iii. Next steps in the process: keep the current Mission as is and use the interpretive statements as a learning tool. The statements will be placed in places for all stakeholders to see and comment on. The final decision will be made by the Board.
 - b. History curriculum proposal
 - i. Dean Mihaly presented an update to the existing history curriculum. After listening to the proposal and asking questions for further clarification the board voted to approve the change. It will be added to the charter renewal information for approval by the SBOE. This would be a new program and give Founders students the opportunity to cover the broad span of History from Colonial to Modern History. The courses will need to reallocate time periods. Students can still take electives if they are interested and it does not change the number of credits required to graduate. There was a motion to approve by Kimberly Lavalley and seconded by Leah Gregerson with a 5-0-0 approval.
 - c. Discussion on student performance
 - i. Moved to the January meeting as a policy meeting needed to occur to focus on the occurrence of students repeating courses and at what grade levels. This information will then be brought to the Board for discussion. Meeting occurring on November 28th at 4:00 PM via Zoom for Board members on the Policy Committee.
 - d. GADA - Employment References and Verifications (Prohibiting aiding and abetting of sexual abuse.) Second reading
 - i. Motion to approve by Kimberly Lavalley seconded by John Bauer approved 5-0-0
 - e. PTSG Report-In packet and not updates from last

10. New Business:

- a. Amendment to April 2021 Budget Report as a member of the Board was married to a Faculty member and Board recused himself from voting. This is coming from the auditors to make certain it is noted in the April 2021 minutes. Board members that are current and in attendance at the April 2021 meeting remember the recusal of the Board member at the time. Motion to approve by John Bauer second by Robert Best with a 4-0-1.

11. Non-Public Session:

None

12. Next Meeting: 6:30pm, Wednesday, January 10, 2024