



Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Robert Best, Kyle Fox, John Bauer, Kimberly Lavalley (On Zoom), Bill Roy, Frank Weiss, Cassie Hayes (ex-officio)

Absent: Patricia Humphrey

Call to Order: (5 minutes) 7:04 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence/Remembrance of 9/11

Reading of the [Mission Statement](#)

1. Public Comments: (See Policy [BEDH](#)) (5 minutes)
 - a. None
2. Secretary's Report: (5 minutes)
 - a. [August 16, 2023 Board Minutes - DRAFT](#)
 - i. Motion to approve by Frank Weiss, no discussion, and all in favor 6-0-0
3. Treasurer's Report: (15 minutes)
 - a. [Board Budget Report - July 31, 2023](#)
 - i. Kyle Fox presented and stated what a nice format the new software provides and thanked the business manager for her efforts over the summer to switch platforms, amazing job
 - ii. Question regarding the percentage of yearly budget and YTD info, switching columns on reports
 - iii. Quickbooks change is better and more reader friendly
 - iv. No revenue from the state as that revenue comes mid-late September
 - v. Fiscal year is July 1 - June 30 each year
 - vi. Dean Hayes asking business manager as well as auditor to attend a Board meeting to clarify some specific questions: budget line items and the depreciation schedule
 - vii. Motion by John Bauer to approve, seconded by Frank Weiss, no discussion, all in favor 6-0-0
4. Dean's Report: (20 minutes)
 - a. See [here](#)

- i. Report from Assistant Dean Mihaly
 - 1. Teacher Orientation Week a success - a strong moral to begin the year, fully staffed, vast trainings occurred during the week as well as prep work for classrooms, and guest speakers
 - 2. Mentor Program - for new teachers, more formalized, 2 lead teachers and a cohort teacher that encourages support and guidance for the new teachers, 10 new teachers in the program this year
 - 3. Teacher United Cohort - provided by the state, 6 teachers involved with this being 2 mentor teachers and 4 new teachers. This will have one on one coaching and working on classroom management and a variety of other topics
 - 4. Professional Development - Teachers will complete a self-assessment by the end of September pertaining to the Danielson Framework. Three goals will be pertinent: a mission/ Culture & Climate goal, a class management goal, and Assessments and Grading goal. Quarterly meetings with each teacher for support and feedback. New teacher meetings bi-weekly in quarter 1. Quarters 1 & 2 will have classroom walkthrough observations and feedback with the Deans of Students completing walkthroughs as well. Quarter 3 - Formal Evaluations of teachers, and Quarter 4 - Meeting on goals.
 - a. Frank Weiss asked a clarifying question about the goals of mission/culture & climate and connecting them to professional goals and Andrew Mihaly responded with the suggestion to have teachers emphasize more on mission and culture & climate. to focus on the relationships with students and staff, discipline, the code of conduct, Round Table. Dean Hayes added that this gives teachers the opportunity to expand more and not box them in and for teachers to look at the holistic approach. This is the first time we have assessed these specific goals for teachers.
 - 5. Professional Development Plan - This is almost ready for the Department of Education to review and finalize. We are hoping that this will support accreditation for teachers within the Founders community versus the Department of Education. Thank you to Christine Tyrie who did a tremendous amount of work with Andrew Mihaly
 - 6. Writing Curriculum - Strive2Write: grades 5 - 12 curriculum. There was professional development on this new curriculum the first week of school for English Language Arts teachers. This program binds with Founders and provides scaffolding for quality writing in our curriculum.

7. Staff Computers - 12 new desk tops and 60 new laptops for teachers. Thank you to a generous donor who recognized the need for these items
- ii. Mission Director- Jennifer Nelson
 1. New position. Her goal is to encourage a variety of students to be leaders and assist students to grow. She has started with opportunities for students to raise and take down the flag daily, students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance each morning, students doing the daily announcements at the start of Round Table each day, Jennifer Nelson has been visiting Round Tables to talk with students and teachers on their needs. "Buddy Project" combines 11th graders with 5th graders to read to them, build skills, and talk with them. All 11th graders will be involved. Round Table will now have lessons that are grade specific and a theme based on the code of conduct. September is "Be Responsible". Constitution Day is September 18th and we will be celebrating by wearing red, white, and blue with lessons about the constitution.
 - a. Bill Roy will be donating items for Founder's students via the American Legion as well as inviting Founders to the Veteran's Day parade in November.
 - b. The Board would like to see examples of students' progress throughout these activities and events.
- iii. Student Services (via Dean Hayes) - three school counselors on staff
 1. Michelle Barrett grades 5 and 6
 2. Autumn Hillsgrove grades 6 - 8
 3. Michelle Smith grades 9 - 12
 4. Juniors and Seniors going through the college process and career fairs
 5. Senior Night September 14
 6. Grades 7 and 8 will be focusing on signs of suicide through the month of September during Round Table. There is an opt out option for parents, This is a statewide initiative.
 - a. Bill Roy shared statistics pertaining to veterans and suicide.
- iv. Dean of Students (via Dean Hayes) - Two Dean of Students - Mrs. Meilleur and Ms. Horan share the responsibility of supporting students based on the code of conduct, expectations, mission, and how they can be helpful to the students.
- v. Admissions Update - grade 5 open, grade 6 open for a few, grades 7 - 12 are full and there are waitlists. The 2024-2025 year opens for admission on September 15, 2023. There are a variety of Open Houses scheduled this year with the expectation that teachers attend as well.
 1. Robert Best recommended that Board members be present as well.

2. Frank Weiss asks about attrition and Dean Hayes is still compiling data she will share at a later date.
 - vi. Special Guest: Nikki Haley - visited Founders and students were able to be a part of the process of what goes into campaigning as well as meeting a candidate. Her team was very supportive of Founders. Kyle Fox stated he attended the evening event. Nikki Haley's team will be sharing the list of guests who registered for the event of over 200 names who attended who are possible supporters of Founders.
 - vii. Back to School Night is September 27th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. There will be a fundraising BBQ where families can pre-purchase tickets. Families are able to visit the classrooms as well. The Board is assisting as well as supporting this event.
5. Faculty Representative's Report: Coming soon
6. Student Trustee's Report: Coming soon
7. Board Business: (60 minutes)
- a. [Mission Report](#) - presented by Jennifer Nelson
 - b. Mission Discussion = deferred
 - c. PTSG report
 - i. Pumpkin Fundraiser - on Founder's Website and is a great event for everyone. The students participate on many levels and it is a nice fundraiser and opportunity for parents to meet other parents and employees. The PTSG does an amazing job every year with this event!
 - ii. Fall Festival October 14th
 - d. Parent Board Members Needed-outreach has started and two board members are working on it
 - e. Busing
 - i. Busing still not in effect. There are approximately 200 students affected by the lack of busing. This is a huge impact on families and many families in our community have pulled together. Dean Hayes has been on radio shows and newspaper reporting about this. She has expressed how challenging it has been and stressed how positive our parents have been. They have formed carpools and afterschool activities to support each other. The school has been offering to be open the week of September 11th from 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM. The Department of Education is already involved in the busing shortage across the state and nationwide. Dean Hayes is hoping to hear more pertaining to the busing situation soon.
 - f. Substitute pay
 - i. Currently \$75.00 per day from 7:45-3:15. A question was asked by Dean Hayes for a few teachers who questioned if they could receive pay for covering the occasional class when a co-worker is out. According to the teacher agreement- teachers are asked to support co-workers by covering a period when needed as part of their professional responsibility when

needed. At this point the Board is not approving payment to teachers for covering an additional period as the budget has been set and the agreements include this. The Board recommends that folks interested in pursuing this bring their recommendations to a board meeting on how to address it in the Spring of 2024.

8. New Business:

- a. None

9. Non-Public Session:

- a. Prior to Scheduled Board Meeting

10. Next Meeting: 6:30pm, Wednesday, October 11, 2023

11. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM motion by Kyle Fox and seconded by John Bauer