



Association for the Advancement of Education, DBA, The Hawbridge School
Hawbridge School
1735 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road
Saxapahaw, NC 27340
(336) 376-1122

BOARD MINUTES

Date: June 14, 2017

Location: Hawbridge School

Attending Board Members: Todd Nicolet (Chairperson), Rowena Khot (Vice Chairperson), James Cajka (Treasurer), Karamarie Fecho (Secretary), Lori Edmonds, Jonathan Romm, Liz Sullivan

Attending Executive Director and Faculty/Staff: Kenny Moles (Executive Director), Jonathan Farmer (Faculty Representative to the Board), Daryl Feldman (co-Assistant Director and Faculty Member), Jennifer Shelton (co-Assistant Director and Faculty Member), Emily Martin (Guidance Counselor)

- I. Call to Order
 - o 6:04 pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - o 6:05 pm.
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - o Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:05 pm.
- IV. Recognitions
 - A. New Board Member
 1. Dr. Lori Edmonds
 - New Board Member Edmonds introduced herself and provided the Board and Administration with an overview of her background, including her work within the School of Education at UNC Chapel Hill. She will have a child at the school this fall. Board and Administration also introduced themselves to Edmonds.
- V. Public Comment
 - o No public comment.
- VI. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - o Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:09 pm.



[Votes were tallied only for those board members who were present during the May meeting and on the board at that time.]

B. Future Meetings/Events:

1. Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2017
2. Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9 or August 16, 2017
 - Motion to cancel the July board meeting. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:12 pm.
 - Motion to move August board meeting to August 23, 2017. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:14 pm.

VII. Reports

A. Board

- Board Member Edmonds requested information on the school's strategic plan to increase diversity. She also offered an opportunity that may align with the school's efforts. Specifically, UNC Wilmington announced a Call for Proposals for participation in a summit aimed at promoting university–school collaboration. Teams of four or five participants (i.e., two or three Hawbridge faculty members plus Edmonds as UNC Chapel Hill representative) are expected to put forward submissions. Proposals should focus broadly on defining challenges in practice, and specific ideas such as “trans-languaging” would be fleshed out during the October summit. Proposal is due August 23, 2017. Board and Administration discussed the suggested focus on diversity and the terms and commitments of the proposal.
 - Board Chair summarized the discussion as a potential opportunity to participate in a summit that might allow the school to explore challenges related to diversity and that may lead to additional opportunities after the summit. He recommended that Edmonds follows up with the Director and Faculty Representative Farmer to further explore the opportunity.
- Board requested an agenda item for the August meeting: consideration of former Board Member Morse's recommended changes to the school's bylaws.
- Board noted that the State of North Carolina repealed portions of House Bill 2 or the so-called “bathroom bill”, including requirements to use the bathroom corresponding to the sex recorded on one's birth certificate. Board requested that the Administration considers the bill and its impact on the school, in terms of overall impact, policies, procedures, and legal implications. Director will research the issue, seek counsel from a legal expert who works with charter schools, and report back to the board.

B. Director

1. End of school
 - End of 2016-2017 school went well, as did the school's end-of-year awards ceremony and the 8th- and 12th-grade graduations.



2. Enrollment Update

- Current school enrollment is at 321 students, which is close to the board's cap of 320 students. Director expects attrition to bring the enrollment number down to 320 students by the start of the year.

3. Academic Acceleration [*Discussion item was added to the agenda.*]

- Director stated that this is the time of year when the school receives numerous requests for academic acceleration. He noted the many school offerings currently available to high school students, including three Spanish courses, Psychology (2018-2019), five AP courses, honors courses, several honors societies, and multiple extracurricular activities—all available within the confines of the school. NC VPS and community colleges provide additional resources to further expand the school's portfolio by offering courses in Russian, Statistics, etc. Director further noted the many service options that the school offers and that colleges find highly attractive, including SaxConnex and Hawbridge Helpers. He stressed that accommodations for acceleration often disrupt a student's program of education and sometimes place students at risk of being academically unprepared for future courses.
- To begin to address these issues, the Director stated that the school will offer Introduction to High School Science for 8th-grade students enrolled in Math I. Eighth-grade students will no longer be offered Biology, which will remain an acceleration option for 9th-grade students. Director emphasized that the school will remain firm with this decision. Director further emphasized that the school is committed to providing a solid, challenging educational opportunity for all students. Director stated that student educational paths will be clearly articulated in the school handbook for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Board expressed strong support for the Administration's clear paths for student education, which the board believes will foster optimal educational experiences for students, while also allowing the school to remain cost-effective and, importantly, responsive to the needs of all students. Board concurred with the Administration that each family should carefully consider all decisions they make regarding the educational path of each individual child.

C. Treasurer

- Treasurer reported that the budget looks sound, with no large expenses expected before the end of the fiscal year. Several projected expenses will not be expended and thus will be rolled over into the new budget.
- Director noted that the school joined with Progress Energy to install new light bulbs and motion sensors through a novel energy/cost savings program that should yield significant long-term savings.

VIII. Unfinished Business



- A. Hawbridge Expansion Update
 - Little submitted an invoice for work on Phase I of the potential school expansion project. Director and Board School Expansion Subcommittee are waiting to hear back from Little regarding a new campus proposal.
- IX. New Business
 - A. Spring Testing Results
 - Director reported that the school's end-of-year testing was almost 100% online. The process went very well, especially given that this was the school's first time offering online-only testing.
 - Ms. Shelton presented an overview of student test results.
 - Board and Administration discussed the results, which were generally very good.
 - B. 2017-2018 Board Officer Appointments
 - Board Chair asked if any board members were interested in serving in an officer position or in no longer serving in an officer position.
 - Board agreed that the four existing officers would remain in their positions and that officer appointments will be discussed during the August meeting, when the board reviews the school's bylaws.
- X. Closed Session
 - A. To Consider Confidential Matters Pursuant to NC G.S. §143-318.11
 - 1. Subsection (a) - (3), (5), (6), (8)
 - Motion to move to closed session. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 7:30 pm.
 - Motion to move to open session and adjourn. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 7:58 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Karamarie Fecho, Board member and Secretary.