



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

BOARD MINUTES

Date: October 11, 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 6:07 pm.
 - II. Roll Call
 - o 6:07 pm.
 - III. Approval of Agenda
 - o Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:08 pm.
 - IV. Public Comment
 - o No public comment.
 - V. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - o Motion to approve previous meeting's minutes. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:09 pm.
 - B. Future Meetings/Events
 1. Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2017
 - Motion to approve the next meeting of the Board. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:09 pm.
 - Director will schedule a special open session of the Board later in October. The purpose will be to approve the school's financial audit prior to the October 31, 2017 NC DPI submission deadline.
- VI. Reports
 - A. Board
 - o Nothing to report.
 - B. Director



- Nothing to report.
- C. Treasurer
 - Treasurer provided an overview of the budget. Budget looks good. Alamance County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools remain behind on revenue payments. Overall, revenues and expenditures are on track, and the surplus is robust.
- VII. Unfinished business
 - A. Approval of revised 2018-2019 School Calendar Proposal
 - Director received 16 responses to a school community survey intended to gauge support for the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar. The majority of responses were positive suggestions. Director reviewed several suggestions with the Board. All suggestions were reviewed by the school leadership team, who decided not to make any changes to the proposed calendar. Board supported this decision.
 - Motion to approve proposed 2018-2019 calendar. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:16 pm.
 - B. Hawbridge Expansion
 - 1. General Updates
 - Board School Expansion Subcommittee Chair Romm has been meeting with local town leaders over the past few weeks to discuss potential school expansion plans and logistics. He had nothing specific to report.
 - C. Board Bylaws
 - 1. Board Membership
 - Board discussed several thought questions put forward by Board Chair Nicolet in advance of the meeting, via a private email exchange with the Board.
 - a. Number of Board members?
 - Board discussed the pros and cons of the number of Board members, in terms of fixed number versus range, what the 'magic' number(s) is, etc.
 - Consensus reached: 9 members is ideal; 7 members is bare minimum.
 - b. Should we specify specific required skillsets that must be filled?
 - Board discussed the pros and cons of specific skillsets and expertise, in terms of codified versus desired skillsets, types of skills and expertise, etc.
 - Consensus reached: desired, but not required, skillsets are preferable; no skillsets are absolutely necessary to maintain a functioning Board.
 - c. Maximum number of terms and term lengths
 - Board discussed the pros and cons of term limits.
 - Consensus reached: 3-year terms, 2 terms maximum with 1 year off before reapplying for Board membership.
 - d. Should there be a community or similar voting process?



- Board discussed potential models for community voting and the pros and cons of various models. Board also discussed the reason for instantiating voting in the first place: pros are teacher voice, community voice, and transparency; cons are a false sense of 'democracy'. Representative Farmer presented an informal faculty perspective. Director presented his perspective, including his view that the Board should carefully consider the opportunity to move away from traditional school board models and open voting.
 - Consensus was not reached on this issue.
- e. What should a selection/voting process look like and/or how should it work?
- Board agreed that this issue cannot be addressed without first reaching consensus on point (d).
- f. What additional logistics (e.g., timing) do we need to consider?
- Board agreed that this issue cannot be addressed without first reaching consensus on points (d) and (e).

General consensus reached: strength of Board is important; composition of Board is important; voice of faculty is important; community transparency is important; Board must consider the best approach for maximizing the interests of all stakeholders, while balancing risks and vulnerabilities and unintentionally introducing chaos and divisiveness into the community.

Board Chair Nicolet reminded the Board of the need to vote, with or without consensus, prior to the end of the calendar year. He encouraged Board members to carefully consider all options and viewpoints expressed during the meeting.

VIII. New Business

A. 2017-2018 Budgetary Priorities

1. Faculty

- Faculty Representative Farmer provided an overview of the faculty's 'wish list' for allowable expenditures. The wish list included funding for field trips (including charter buses), outdoor classrooms, scholarships, Hawbridge Outdoors, and other opportunities. He will send the detailed list to the Board.

2. Administration

- Director provided an overview of the administration's 'wish list' for allowable expenditures. The wish list included potential hiring of an SRO, budget to retain an attorney on a permanent basis, transportation costs for a 15-passenger van to assist with sports activities and field trips, and upgrades to the restrooms in the Upstairs Commons.

3. Board

- Board provided an overview of their 'wish list' for allowable expenditures. The wish list included upgrades to outdoor play areas, funding for the science program (e.g., laboratory equipment, reagents), professional development funds for faculty education on the school's new model of place-based education, a lunch program for



students/families in need of financial assistance, scholarship funds, and potential hiring of an SRO.

- Regarding the 'wish list' items related to educational supplies, Director noted that an educational supply fund is already included in the budget and can be expended by faculty: \$20k staff development; \$10k textbooks; and \$15K instructional supplies. He noted that this fund is underutilized by faculty. Board encouraged the Director to continue to alert faculty to this opportunity.
- Board Chair Nicolet requested dollar figures for each 'wish list' item and perhaps the use of Google Docs to collaboratively prioritize items.

IX. Closed Session

A. To Consider Confidential Matters Pursuant to NC G.S. §143-318.11

1. Subsection (a) - (3), (5)

- Motion to move to closed session. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 7:56 pm.
- Motion to move to open session. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 8:20 pm.
- Motion to pursue architectural design options for a potential school expansion and begin process for community engagement. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 8:23 pm.
- Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 8:23 pm.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Karamarie Fecho, Board Member and Secretary.