



Association for the Advancement of Education, DBA, The Hawbridge School  
1735 Saxapahaw-Bethlehem Church Road  
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## BOARD MINUTES

**Date:** March 21, 2018

**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
  - 6:04 pm.
- II. Roll Call
  - 6:04: pm.
- III. Approval of Agenda
  - Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:05 pm.
- IV. Public Comment
  - No public comment when agenda item was discussed.
  - A community member later joined the meeting and offered public comment, stating that she was present to learn more about the potential school expansion.
  - A second attendee also later joined the meeting and offered public comment, stating that he was present only to learn more about the workings of the board.
- V. Consent Items
  - A. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
    - Motion to approve minutes from February 2018 regular meeting pending correction of the spelling of Heather LaGarde's name. Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:08 pm.
  - B. Future Meetings/Events:
    1. Board Meeting: 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
      - Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:09 pm.
- VI. Reports



A. Board

- Nothing to report.

B. Director

1. Master Schedule Update

- Co-Assistant Director Shelton discussed the process for preparing the annual master schedule, as well as some changes to the schedule from last year.

2. Classes with Honors Designation vs Classes Without

- Co-Assistant Director Shelton and Ms. Martin provided an historical overview of the school's focus on in-depth learning, with an emphasis on in-classroom work and fewer, but longer, class periods. They also provided an overview of the high school curriculum. English and Social Studies have fixed sequences of courses, but with honors options offered during regular class. One AP option is offered for both English (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and social studies (11<sup>th</sup> grade). Math also is offered as a fixed sequence of courses, but as a standard path or an accelerated path beginning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and ending in AP Calculus.<sup>1</sup> Science courses are more flexible and include one honors class (Chemistry) and two AP classes (Physics, Environmental Science).
- Faculty Representative Farmer commented on the cultural benefits of teaching children enrolled in standard and honors classes within the same class/classroom, with honors enrichment offered outside of the regular class/classroom. Director Moles commented that the faculty generally shared that sentiment.
- Board questioned several aspects of the curriculum, including the school's choice to offer honors classes in English and Social Studies, but not Math or Science (except Chemistry).
- Director and Administration explained that several factors influenced their decision to not include honors options in Math and Science, including the quality of the educational opportunity, budget constraints, and their belief that in-classroom, integrated honors classes do not work as well for Math or Science, in comparison to English and Social Studies. In developing the curriculum, the administration sought data and input from a variety of sources, including students.
- Board summarized the thoughts expressed, including the potential need to provide quality options for enrichment in all fields of study, for example, by offering a STEM club to offset the lack of honors options for Math and Science.

3. Post-Secondary Opportunities

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<sup>1</sup> Secretary clarification, noted outside of the Board meeting: Hawbridge students can progress past AP Calculus via online courses offered through North Carolina Virtual Public School. See related discussion on this topic in §VI.C.1.a.



- Ms. Martin provided an overview of college admissions and the school's role in that process. She explained that Hawbridge submits the school's profile, including available courses, to all colleges/universities that students apply to. Ms. Martin also actively engages with five or so recruiters each year to provide an overview of the Hawbridge School, Saxapahaw, etc. She also provided a comparison of Hawbridge's average student profile versus that of the average UNC Chapel Hill student. Ms. Martin noted that for the class of 2017, 100% of students who applied to a college or university were accepted by at least one school, and 73% were accepted to more than one school.

Board Chair Nicolet summarized the above discussion. He recommended that the Administration annually solicits feedback from all stakeholders regarding the Hawbridge School curriculum. Nicolet further recommended that the Board considers a thorough review of the school's charter with respect to the school's curriculum, as well as a community survey of families on the same topic.

#### C. Treasurer

- Treasurer reviewed the budget. Remaining school expansion funds are high (roughly \$60,000), but are expected to be spent soon. Faculty bonuses are not included in the current budget, but are expected to be drawn soon. A modest annual surplus is expected.
1. Preparation for FYI 2018-2019
    - a) North Carolina Virtual Public School Allotments
      - Director reported that spending on per-student expenses related to North Carolina Virtual School is expected to increase from \$26K to \$31K, which is higher than neighboring charter schools. Hawbridge subsidizes costs for enrolled students during the school year; families cover costs for enrolled students during the summer sessions. Director would like to remove this option for the majority of students who simply are taking courses as a personal choice, not because the school doesn't offer acceptable course options.
      - Board, Director, and Administration discussed the pros and cons of North Carolina Virtual Public School courses.
      - Board Chair suggested that the Administration gathers more information and that the Board and Administration continue this discussion during another meeting. Information to be gathered includes any policies in place at neighboring charter schools, family input (if available and appropriate), a clear list of factors that challenge the current school offerings, and statistics (counts, academic grades) on



students by school grade and course title who have or are taking courses with North Carolina Virtual Public School.

## II. Unfinished Business

### A. Hawbridge Expansion

- Board Member Romm reported on the second community session to discuss the potential Hawbridge School expansion. The discussion focused primarily on environmental interests and impacts. Fifteen or so persons attended the session, in addition to Romm, Board Chair, and Director. Overall, the session was very positive.
- Romm recommended to move vote(s) on the potential school expansion to later in the calendar year due to several unfinished factors, including an unfinished land survey, an unfinished traffic impact survey, and a need to consider the general vision for a school expansion, in terms of 'configuration' and numbers of students (i.e., one K-12 school, upper school only, etc.). His recommendation was to vote on the initial 'package' during the April regular meeting of the Board and to vote on the finalized 'package' during the June regular meeting of the Board, assuming that the Board has received USDA loan approval to move forward with the project by the June meeting. Romm will consult with Little Architecture to see if the second vote could be moved to the August regular meeting of the Board, only if necessary and without significantly delaying the projected school opening date of Summer 2020, should the project move forward.

## VIII. New Business

### A. 2018 Board Appointment Updates

- Board Subcommittee posted a submission deadline of April 15, 2018. Subcommittee has been engaged in active outreach; however, they've received zero applications thus far. Subcommittee Chair Romm recommends active outreach by the Board.

## IX. New Business

### A. School Safety Presentation

1. Discussion of the need for a School Resource Officer
  - Alamance County Sheriff was unable to attend the meeting, but will provide a presentation at the April regular meeting of the Board.
  - Director and Co-Assistant Director Feldman provided an historical overview of school safety programs, which typically focus on lockdown security only. Director and Co-Assistant Director Feldman were alerted to a new A.L.I.C.E. training program that was designed to provide flexible responses to defend and protect students against a violent intruder at schools. The program provides training for situational responses, including (but not limited to) lockdown. A.L.I.C.E. = Alert.Lockdown.Inform.Counter.Evacuate. Co-Assistant Director



Feldman went through each step of the program and emphasized that the steps are not ordered. Of relevance, the school invested in the RhinoWare barricade system, which has been applied to select classrooms that are at most risk of an intruder.

- Faculty Representative Farmer commented that given the current societal climate, he believes the A.L.I.C.E. training leaves faculty members feeling as prepared as they can be about facing a violent intruder and protecting students, colleagues, and themselves against harm.
- Board questioned student training with respect to A.L.I.C.E. Administration explained that the school crisis team is discussing how best to train students and reach a balance between scaring students and educating them.
- Board questioned the method(s) for student reporting of potentially threatening behavior among co-students. Director believes that communication is good among students, Administration, and Faculty, so the requisite trust should be in place to ensure open communication.
- Board Member Edmonds discussed a UNC Chapel Hill School of Education program on 'prevention' vs 'postvention' strategies. She noted that the school offers public training.

B. Lottery

1. Date
2. Application
  - Board agreed to move this agenda item to the April regular meeting.

X. 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. 8:25 pm.

XI. Adjourn

- Motion to move to open session and adjourn. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 8:38 pm.

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