



The Association for the Advancement of Education, DBA, The Hawbridge School

BOARD MINUTES

Date: October 23, 2019

Location: Hawbridge School

- I. Call to Order
 - 6:05pm
- II. Roll Call
 - 6:05pm

Attending Board Members: Lori Edmonds (Chair), Val Hanson (Vice Chair), Dianne Ford (Secretary), Sue Eldon (Treasurer), Natalya Barker, Dawnya Bohager, Kathryn Brown, Tim Toben. Brian Setliff was absent.

Attending Executive Director and Faculty/Staff: Mya Ciccotti (Executive Director), Emily Martin (School Counselor), Jonathan Farmer (Faculty Representative to the Board).

- III. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Unanimously supported.
- IV. Public Comment
 - There was no public comment.
- V. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from September 2019 board meeting and minutes from called meetings on October 7 and October 17. Motion to approve, seconded, unanimous approval.
 - B. Future Meetings/Events:
 - November Board Meeting will be November 20, 2019 at 6pm.
 - Annual Hawbridge Open House is scheduled for Saturday, November 30, 2019, from 1:00-3:00 pm. This is the day of the Saxapahaw Holiday Market. We would like to put up posters since this is a big recruiting event for the school. Natalya will create a Doodle poll to allow board members to sign up for Open House hours. We will discuss this again at our next board meeting. Board members should send a headshot to Mya so she can create nametags for us.

VI. Reports

A. Board

- Committee Updates: Expansion, Communication, Fundraising, Renovation, Policy Manual Ad Hoc committee
 1. Expansion Committee: for the record, this is where we are today. In January, we got approval for a USDA loan for \$12,000,000, with ~ \$9,000,000 of this for construction. Our design came in significantly over budget; we've spent significant time working to reduce the cost of the project. As of this past Monday, we've found savings so that construction budget is now \$9,200,200. We need some room in our budget for cost increases for materials. We have maintained a project that meets the mission of the school and what the community expects; we have a thin margin, or buffer, for meeting our budget. We will ask the board for consent on this later in this meeting. We're much better off today than where we were in July.
 2. Communication Committee: we've had a complaint from the community that we are not communicating well enough with some of the long-time residents of the Saxapahaw community. Should we try an article for the Saxapahaw Current, or in local newspapers? Try posters at the PO and Dollar General? Try a community meeting? We need Times-News, Alamance News coverage.
 3. Fundraising Committee: the committee met by email to get the ball rolling. Sue is going to hand off chair position to Kathryn. They will have a meeting in early Nov.
 4. Renovation committee: once we break ground, many board responsibilities are done. We can begin working on renovations then.
 5. Policy Manual Ad Hoc Committee: we are awaiting approval by our school attorney for two proposed school policies. We will attempt to bring both of those to the next board meeting.

B. Director –

- Hawbridge has been in the news due to high SAT scores. The school has received recognition from the Saxapahaw Museum. The board would like to have a social hour for faculty to celebrate, possibly at Honeysuckle Teahouse or at Culture Mill. This might be a happy hour after school.
- Hawbridge was awarded a Small Rural School Achievement Grant, a federal grant that we also received last year. Last year, there were schoolwide decisions made about spending grant funds. This year, departments were asked to make wish lists to support effective instruction. Every department will get their wish list items, which include a rolling library for history classes, a kiln for pottery, and risers for the new choral program. This has been a great morale booster for the faculty.

C. Treasurer

- Money has come in from some counties, but not all, and therefore we are still running at a deficit. We are waiting for those counties. This situation is the same as last year.

D. Faculty Representative

- Jonathan Farmer reports that there's a lot of cool stuff going on, including really exciting theater, outdoors programs, and an art gallery in hallway.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Board Policy Manual Update

- We will hope to look at sexual harassment and communication policies next month.

B. Hawbridge Expansion Update (Little Diversified and Aspire Construction)

- This will be discussed in closed session.

VIII. New Business

A. School Resource Officer Survey Results

- Mya conducted a faculty survey, with 84% in favor of an SRO. Mya summarized faculty feedback for the board. The Admin Team built a list of ways we could use a SRO. The board should see our online folder for the official description of a SRO. It would be difficult to do the required student hotline without an SRO. We need to be proactive about this. The Burlington Police Dept is very forward thinking, with SRO policies and guidelines. Well-trained SROs are essential. We need to have someone who understands the Hawbridge culture. The board would need to approve funding; funding is shared 50/50 with sheriff's department. A grant for an SRO is coming up soon, and Natalya volunteered to work on this. Faculty will assist with the interview process. SROs must be armed and in uniform. Parent meetings will be offered. We will need to phase this in to include everybody, including business owners. It's coming down the pipeline and we need to be proactive.

IX. Closed Session

A. Closed Session

- a. To Consider Confidential Matters Pursuant to NC G.S. §143-318.11
 - i. Subsection (a) - (5)

- Motion to move to closed session. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 7:10 pm.
- Motion to move to open session. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 8:50pm pm

X. Adjourn

- Adjourn 8:50pm

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Dianne Ford, Board Member and Secretary

During closed board meeting, the Hawbridge Board agreed to complete our work by email to craft a public message about our school expansion project. That official message is below.

PUBLIC STATEMENT:

The Hawbridge School Board is pleased to announce that the design drawings for the school expansion project will be completed by mid-November in anticipation of an August 2022 opening for a K-12 public charter school in Saxapahaw.

The design drawings will be used to create construction documents, and once those construction documents are complete, we will be ready to open the process for public bidding for a general contractor.

We anticipate an opportunity to share more detailed plans with the public early in the new year.