



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 24, 2018

Location: Hawbridge School

Attending Board Members: Todd Nicolet (Chair), Sue Eldon (Treasurer), Karamarie Fecho (Secretary), Natalya Barker, Lori Edmonds, Dianne Ford, Brian Setliff, Tim Toben

Absent Board Member: Val Hanson (Vice Chair)

Attending Executive Director and Faculty/Staff: Mya Ciccotti (Interim Executive Director), Jennifer Shelton (co-Assistant Director and Faculty Member), Daryl Feldman (co-Assistant Director and Faculty Member), Jonathan Farmer (Faculty Representative), Emily Martin (Guidance Counselor),

- I. Call to Order
 - 6:05 pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - 6:05 pm.
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:06 pm.
- IV. Public Comment
 - No public comment.
- V. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes from September 2018 regular meeting pending one edit and one clarification. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:10 pm.
 - B. Future Meetings/Events:
 1. Board Meeting: 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 28, 2018
 - Motion to move the next regular meeting date to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 6:11 pm.
- VI. Reports
 - A. Board
 1. Committee Updates (Expansion/Fundraising/Communications)



- Board Chair Nicolet proposed to add 'Committee Updates' as a regular agenda item.
- Expansion Committee update moved to Unfinished Business.
- Fundraising Committee update moved to Director Report.
- Communications Committee Chair Edmonds provided an update. The committee reached out to a community organizing group based in Saxapahaw to discuss community-building opportunities and a potential 'Simulation Event' involving local community members, Board members, Faculty members, and (potentially) students. The goal of the event would be to promote community dialogue. Services will be offered at a discounted rate. Funding likely will be drawn from the school's Professional Development Funds, at the discretion of the Interim Executive Director.

B. Director

1. Potential Fundraiser Update

- Interim Executive Director Ciccotti provided an update on a potential fundraising event (i.e., a semi-formal dinner) to be sponsored by Reverence Farms. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Haw River Ballroom. Estimate is 200–250 seats at \$50 per person. Preliminary discussions also have taken place with The General Store and The Eddy Pub. The event would be timed so as to avoid overlap with PASTA's annual fundraising event (i.e., silent auction). After information-gathering is complete, the Fundraising Committee will meet to finalize the next steps.
- Board Chair emphasized the need to balance the workload and overhead expense associated with the potential fundraiser with the anticipated profit before moving forward, after all information has been gathered.

C. Treasurer

- Board Treasurer Eldon provided a report. The school is still awaiting receipt of county funding, but the budget is otherwise on track. Treasurer has no concerns.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Hawbridge Expansion Update

- Co-Assistant Director Feldman provided an update on the recent site visit. Property is roughly 35% flat. Athletic field will occupy most of the flat space and may require retaining walls. Remaining buildings and parking areas will need to be sloped into the surrounding hills. Classroom building will be detached from the gym/community building and will have a brick façade. Outward appearance of the gym/community building has not been defined. Outdoor classrooms will be located between the parking lot and athletic



field. Budgetary issues necessitate gravel parking spaces, but allow for a paved concrete drive. Stormwater run-off area will be located near the creek and may permit the inclusion of a gazebo or similar structure.

- Faculty Design & Development Team has been formed and held their first meeting with the architect to begin brainstorming regarding classroom design, logistics, etc.
- USDA feedback has been received. Goal is to receive loan approval by November regular meeting of the Board.
- US DOT Traffic Impact Analysis process has been initiated.
- Expansion Committee Member Jonathan Romm added that several external stakeholders are interested in joining the Expansion Committee. Board Chair Nicolet noted that the composition of the committee has yet to be finalized. Expansion Committee Chair Toben noted that in his opinion, the role of the committee is to provide consultation to the Board and Faculty Design & Development Team, with the Faculty Design & Development Team driving the design and implementation of the new school and the committee serving as a community liaison and enforcing schedules and accountability. Board Chair requested that the committee keeps the Board informed of financing decisions and status, design updates, educational opportunities related to the construction process, construction progress, and timeline. Expansion Committee Chair raised the possibility of hiring a Project Manager to support the Interim Executive Director's efforts on the expansion project. Board and Administration welcomed this possibility. Board Chair emphasized that community stakeholder input and participation are critical throughout the school expansion process. Expansion Committee Chair and Interim Executive Director will meet to discuss committee composition and proper channels for community reporting. Board Chair emphasized the need for the Faculty Design & Development Team to create a mechanism and/or approach for encouraging input from outside of the faculty. Board suggested that a Community Focus Group might serve this purpose and should include the land donors and community members who are currently leasing the donated land. Board Chair emphasized that all decisions will remain negotiable and open for feedback until the construction plans have been drawn and finalized.

VIII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Unanimously supported. 7:46 pm.

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