

Academy for Science and Design (ASD)

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes -JANUARY 14, 2015 (Approved Feb mtg)

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Board Members Present (10): Heather Bobbitt, Gregory Czuba, Thomas Frischknecht, Kent Glossop, Dr. Karen Graham, Kevin Harbison, Kim Lavallee, Heather MacDonald, Brian Smith, Matt Southerton

Board Members Absent (3): David Alukonis, Dr. Michael Diffily, Dr. Shiby Thomas

Non-Voting Members Present (3): Jennifer Cava, Patricia Sockey, Carolyn Marquis

Public/Others in Attendance: Kym Harmon, Patty Conard, Rod Conard

Meeting called to order 6:33 PM by Brian Smith

1. Public Comments - none

2. Approve Minutes from previous meeting

December 10, 2014 meeting's minutes are missing the faculty report. Heather Bobbitt has asked Patty Sockey to help review her notes and send over the information to her to complete the minutes accordingly. These minutes will be considered for approval at the February board meeting along with tonight's minutes. All other edits have been made.

3. Items of Board Business

a. Board Chairman (Brian Smith)

Brian Smith reports he will be presenting an overview about the Academy for Science and Design at the January 26, 2015 Nashua Rotary Club Meeting, at the Nashua Country Club.

b. Board Treasurer (Kim Lavallee)

Kim Lavallee states the financials are in order, feels the new Treasurer Report is in good shape, and the Annual Fund is really moving along. Category 1900 on the P & L is a variety of donations that are not accounted for in the annual fund. The number in the Director's Report, Corp Matching, is category 1925. Any questions please see Kim Lavallee or Kym Harmon. Finance report was sent to the Board in advance. This is the link:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=bd938e7d32&view=att&th=14ae5953b5f7d73d&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f_i4vwe0vp0&safe=1&zw

c. Budget Update (David Alukonis)

No report this evening, David Alukonis is not in attendance this evening.

4. Director's Report (Jenn Cava)

a. Director's Report -- January 2015 link sent in advance to the Board see below:

https://docs.google.com/a/asdnh.org/document/d/1giDgQXrKk7PpffFdfLdVZrR3DoIRN3V7Enry6-yorGc/edit?usp=sharing_eid

1. Jenn Cava spoke to the just released “Governor’s Task Force on K-12 STEM Education” report, which was forwarded to the Board yesterday. She is astounded that though this report strongly acknowledges the need for more STEM related education in NH public schools, and recommends establishing funding to support this, there is not one mention or recognition of ASD’s existence as a successful, DOE authorized NH Public Charter School with a charter focused on STEM, grades 6-12! She finds it incomprehensible that this task force and the governor continue to ignore ASD’s existence and success, given ASD’s numerous attempts to reach out to them as well as the reports they have certainly seen depicting ASD’s scoring on statewide assessment tests. She would like to consider a press release addressing this.

Thomas Frischknecht suggested a press release which would make an official statement on that report on the ASD website, possibly contacting methods of getting the word out via ads in papers or radio stations such as WMUR. He is willing to fund the ads if this avenue is accepted.

The Board in general agrees this needs to be addressed. No specific action was immediately agreed upon.

2. The Smarter Balance Testing Schedule is for March and May 2015. ASD’s challenge is to meet the electronic testing and related schedule requirements; computers earphone/earbuds, bandwidth, etc.. This will be the first year any NH school has implemented this testing method which is replacing the previous NECAP testing model.

3. 2015-16 School Admissions: Lottery is scheduled for Saturday, January 31st.

4. Annual Fund: \$121K received thus far, with pledges continuing to be full-filled. The paper registration introduced this year for family contributions has been successful and helpful in tracking pledges. Corporate matching has risen in its use by families this year and those matches are trickling in. There is no way to know when corporations release these matching funds. Jenn Cava is very pleased with the fundraising efforts YTD as we are well ahead of last year.

5. 2nd Annual Spring Gala and Silent Auction This inaugural fundraiser, introduced in 2014, was held at Fratellos in Manchester and raised \$6,000 during the silent and live auction events. Tickets for the 2nd Annual ASD Gala are now on sale at the front desk for \$50 per person. This event will be held at Fratellos, 155 Dow Street, Manchester, NH on Friday, March 20th, 6pm. Jenn Cava invites all Board Members to consider attending this evening’s event and reached out for silent auction items or services to be donated for the growing silent auction. Donations are tax deductible. Please email Amy.Bewley@asdnh.org (please include Jenn Cava on the email as well!) with any items/services that you can contribute to this event.

6. Best Practices Conference: ASD is hosting the NH Public Charter School Association's Best Practices Conference again on Friday, March 13th. Lisa Moser has been coordinating the logistics and organizational aspects of this event for years. Jenn Cava has asked the association to consider a stipend to give to Lisa Moser this year as she must do this planning on her own time and it is very involved. Jenn Cava has asked Ilene Liponis, Exec Director of the NH Public Charter School Association, to bring an additional 2-4 speakers to this event. Board members are encouraged to have a round table session on "The Public Charter School Board" at this event to have the opportunity to brainstorm ideas with other board members in attendance. Thomas Frischknecht is happy to be a speaker for this type of session. Jenn Cava would like to invite Nashua's Superintendent and Asst Superintendent to this event as well to reach out to our community and try to involve them in this event.

5. Faculty and Student Affairs

a. Faculty Report (Patricia Sockey)

Patty Sockey put out a call to faculty on any issues or comments to bring to tonight's meeting and she didn't hear from anyone at this time. All have been back from the holiday break for a only a couple weeks and most are in the throes of preparing for midterms and end of term grading.

Patty Sockey stated she was personally offended by Governor Hassan's announcement today about the need for a STEM school in NH as she felt overlooked as an educator working in the only STEM school in NH. She also feels the need to make a statement or press release to show ASD is here and successfully educating middle and high school students in a STEM school in NH.

[Patty Sockey, Heather Bobbitt and Kevin Harbison will discuss some ideas on how to possibly get an aerial photo of the school and students in formation to spell out STEM in our parking lot so that it can be used in a press release. Looking for ideas to help get ASD on the radar answering this STEM school call. These ideas will be brought to Jenn Cava for approval and coordination.](#)

b. Student Body Report (Carolyn Marquis)

- ASD Granite State Challenge Team competed against Nashua South this past Saturday results will be announced on the NHPTV in early March.
- Student Council planning Prom (May), Valentines Day Dances and Senior Week
- Senior Projects are moving along well, for example some areas of concentration are recycling at ASD and figuring out how different learning styles can be catered to so that students get the best education possible.
- The Early Admission College Acceptances were from WPI, UVM, UVM Honors, University of Rochester, Northeastern, UMass Amherst, UNH to date. Still waiting to hear from Cornell, Dartmouth, Tufts, RPI, Brandeis, MIT, Williams, Mass Maritime, Saint

Anselm's to name a few.

6. Committee Reports

a. Finance (David Alukonis) Meeting resched TBA

b. Outreach (Matt Southerton)

ASD Property Tax Abatement Request Status: Ready for language for possible abatement. Committee will approach Tamposi Group to see if the language is acceptable so they can move forward to the City of Nashua's Tax Assessors Office.

c. Personnel (Kim Lavallee)

Kim Lavallee reported the committee met and voted to recommend pursuing an additional 2.5 positions for the 2015-16 school year. The committee will discuss this with the Finance Committee with regard to the budget, and if approved will bring to the Board for approval.

d. Policy (Gregory Czuba)

Greg Czuba stated there were three policies in the queue and the committee will meet tomorrow. He anticipates having 1-2 policies for board review at the Feb meeting.

e. Strategic Planning (Kent Glossop)

Kent Glossop stated the committee met and agreed to focus on it's highest priority, sustainability.. A brainstorming meeting on sustainability will be held one week from today focusing on ways to reduce cost as well as increase income.

Kent Glossop announced the need to temporarily hand over the Strategic Planning Committee chair role as he is not able to give the attention needed as chair. He will continue to participate.

Brian Smith suggested Peter Savo as he is very active in this committee, however there was discussion that it has been the board's practice to have board members as chairs.

Brian Smith stated he will reach out to Peter Savo to see if he would be interested in temporarily taking the chair role while Kent Glossop is on hiatus

Heather McDonald asked Kent Glossop if he felt the chair' needs to have a historical knowledge of ASD to best serve this committee. Ken Glossop felt that while there is a benefit, it may be enlightening to have someone without the history -- to prompt asking different questions.

Thomas Frischknecht offered to chair for the remainder of the year if Peter Savo is not ready to move forward with the suggested solution.

Brian Smith will speak to Peter Savo this week and get his resume out to the board for review should he decide to accept the proposed solution.

f. Additional items not on the agenda:

Jenn Cava asked for board approval to allow Mrs. Xu, the Mandarin language teacher, to plan a student trip to China for Spring 2016. This trip has been previously conducted and a similar trip is the objective. She is requesting Board approval in order to move forward with discussing this opportunity with students and parents to gauge interest in carrying out its planning.

Thomas Frischknecht made a motion to approve Mrs. Xu's planning of the China trip in 2016, Matt Southerton 2nd the motion, all were favor, so moved.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Wed, February 11, 2015, at 6:30pm
- b. Agenda items

Gregory Czuba made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm, motion was 2nd by Heather Bobbitt, all approved, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Bobbitt
Secretary