

## **Academy for Science and Design (ASD)**

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes -March 11, 2015 (Approved April 8, 2015)

doc ref: ASD Board Minutes 2015-MAR-11

**Board Members Present (13):**David Alukonis, Heather Bobbitt, Gregory Czuba, Dr. Michael Diffily, Thomas Frischknecht, Kent Glossop, Dr. Karen Graham, Kim Lavallee, Heather MacDonald, Brian Smith, Matt Southerton, Dr. Shiby Thomas

**Board Members Absent (0):**

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

**Others in Attendance:** Kym Harmon, Stuart Harmon, Joel Preminger, Michael White

Meeting called to order 6:35 PM by Brian Smith

### **1. Public Comments - none**

### **2. Approve Minutes from previous meeting**

Heather MacDonald made a motion to approve the February 11, 2015 previous meeting's minutes, 2nd by Greg Czuba, all were in favor, so moved.

### **3. Policy for Board Review**

- a. JRA – Student Records and Access (first reading) Greg Czuba reported the committee had a thorough discussion on this policy. Heather MacDonald clarified the ASD Directory is opt out email.

Kim Lavallee made a motion to accept the first reading of JRA, Student Records and Access Policy, 2nd by Heather Bobbitt, all were in favor, so moved.

- b. BBB – School Board Member Selection (first reading) Greg Czuba stated some work was done on this with provisions and a background check added. Thomas Frischknecht stated 2nd pg, 2nd para,...parents can serve up to 4 years if re-elected. Re-elected is not the word to use. Dr. Michael Diffley also stated that “approximately” used to decide the makeup of the board with regard to parents vs external members is too vague and should be more defined. Dr. Karen Graham stated there are pros and cons to one side being a majority over the other and this consideration should be weighted. Discussion was too inconclusive and the Chair, Brian Smith, recommended this policy be returned to the committee for further review against the charter. Greg Czuba asked board for their timely input towards this policy as the committee will be meeting next week to take this forward.

### **4. Items of Board Business**

- a. Board Treasurer (Kim Lavallee)

Kim Lavallee reported Finance Report was emailed to all board prior to meeting. Specifically noted Profit and Loss statement shows the receipt of State Grant in Aid (line item 3100)

showing \$803,036 was received March. As such she feels there will not be the need to activate the bridge loan. However, it is noted an unexpected expense to clear the roof of snow was \$17,734. Currently reporting budget is on track.

Budget link:

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=bd938e7d32&view=att&th=14c052f967f08474&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f\\_i73dr9b50&safe=1&zw](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=bd938e7d32&view=att&th=14c052f967f08474&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f_i73dr9b50&safe=1&zw)

## 5. Director's Report (Jenn Cava)

Director's Report March 2015: sent via email to board members prior to tonight's board meeting,

Link:

[https://docs.google.com/a/asdnh.org/document/d/1hcRmKWzFUjSiJuXMLvBJaphL\\_nHea1QdQT9oueNvdmw/edit?usp=sharing\\_eid](https://docs.google.com/a/asdnh.org/document/d/1hcRmKWzFUjSiJuXMLvBJaphL_nHea1QdQT9oueNvdmw/edit?usp=sharing_eid)

- a. Academic Calendar 2015-2016 shared.

Greg Czuba made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Academic Calendar 2nd by Kim Lavallee, all were in favor, so moved.

- b. Friday, March 13, 2015 Public Charter School's Best Practices Conference is being held at ASD again this year. There will be 3 student speakers. many sessions, as well as a Board panel session. Board members are invited to attend.
- c. The Spring Gala Silent Auction and Fundraiser is being held on March 20th at Fratellos. Ticket sales are about the same as last year and they are looking to sell more tickets to the event. The Center for Innovative Schools has sent in a \$500 sponsorship for this event.
- d. Legislative updates:
  - i. **HB563: Charter School Funding** vote in the House of Representatives was postponed this afternoon for March 12th. An abundant number of students, parents from various charter schools did make an impression up in Concord today creating an impact that we hope will payoff with tomorrow's vote. There have been an exemplary amount of emails from students and parents received by our representatives.
  - ii. **HB662: Property Tax relief for public charter schools** bill sponsored by Kermit Williams (D) from Keene is also in session and we should see this in the Senate anytime.
- e. Snow removal from the roof was a February project that was extraordinary with an expense to ASD of \$17,734. This was not a budgeted item.

**6. Program of Studies 2015-2016**: email sent out to board with link:

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=bd938e7d32&view=att&th=14bf0a591563fcb4&attid=0.2&disp=inline&realattid=f\\_i6y00cuq1&safe=1&zw](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=bd938e7d32&view=att&th=14bf0a591563fcb4&attid=0.2&disp=inline&realattid=f_i6y00cuq1&safe=1&zw)

Proposal made with minor changes made that were related to the middle school track vs all

middle/high school tracks.

Greg Czuba asked about how this is communicated with the student body. Jenn Cava responded that students initially will work with their advisors. Should schedules need more work, students may work with Mrs. Dumoski, Dean of Academics, for solutions

Kim Lavallee made a motion to accept the Program of Studies for 2015-2016. Thomas Frischknecht 2nd the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

## 7. Faculty and Student Affairs

### a. Faculty Report (Patricia Sockey)

Patty Sockey has the following to report from the faculty-

1. Bridget Phillips reports:
  - Kevin Skarupa is visiting the 6th grade in April. Third year in a row! He loves our school and the challenging questions our sixth graders ask. :)
2. Harry Lowenthal reports:
  - Spanish III is working on a persuasive writing project on the subject of good health habits, diet, exercise, & sleep.
  - Students have been asking if there will be a Costa Rica trip next year. It seems we will have to wait until 2017 and plan one then.
  - At some point I may ask the board to think about plans for updating the Spanish textbooks we use. I've been using the current edition for six years now and it's a little out of date, not to mention wear and tear from being hauled around in back packs.
3. Rebecca Lacourse:
  - For TSA, we have 87 students that we will be taking to the state competition next Thursday and Friday!
  - As for 6th grade, in engineering and technology we are starting simple machines (tomorrow actually) and students will be building their very own Rube Goldberg machines.
4. Amy Bewley:
  - Washington DC at the end of April to compete Nationally, The Destination Imagination Teams did great at the Regional Tournament with 3 out of 4 of our teams advancing to the State Tournament, and the Mathcounts Team came in 1st at the Regional Competition and placed 2nd at the Statewide competition. In the individual Mathcounts round, 8th grader Kunaal Sundara came in 1st place and he will represent the state of New Hampshire at the National Competition in May.

### b. Student Body Report (Carolyn Marquis)

1. Game Night: March 27th
2. Prom being planned for late May
3. Senior Projects in final stages
4. HB563: Kids are getting enthusiastic in this process

Greg Czuba mentioned that MIT sponsors SPLASH/SPARK 2 weekends per year. Suggested

this be published to the ASD community for future attendees.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### a. **Personnel** (Kim Lavallee)

Kim Lavallee sent out 2 documents to the board. Proposal to Personnel 2016 Teacher Pay which was approved by committee and forwarded to the Finance Committee and approved by the Finance Committee. She did not receive any questions prior to this evening and there were no additional questions this evening.

Heather Bobbitt made a motion to approve the Proposal to Personnel 2016 Teacher Pay which was 2nd by Greg Czuba, all were in favor, so moved.

### b. **Finance** (David Alukonis)

David Alukonis emailed the proposed 2015-2016 Budget to Board on March 6. This reflects the increased enrollment to 525. David Alukonis reminded all that the personnel proposal as well as the budget were public information and if anyone had questions, they may see the documents and make inquiries. He received no questions prior to tonight's meeting and there were no additional questions this evening.

Kim Lavallee made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Budget, David Alukonis 2nd the motion. All were in favor, so moved.

### c. **Outreach** (Matt Southerton)

1. Matt Southerton said it was a wonderful day at the state today seeing all the support for the HB 563 Charter School Funding bill.
2. He also wanted to bring up another bill that is being addressed which is HB555 Charter School Students participation in public school sports. This evidently has caused so much controversy, that this bill was necessary to resolve participation issues within the public school districts.
3. Matt Southerton mentioned Greg Hill, a financial planner & state representative, as well as his son who is attending Olin College have expressed an interest in participating in a SPARK day. <http://www.olin.edu/>
4. Seminars on applying for grants is currently being sponsored by the Charter School National Alliance.

### d. **Policy** (Greg Czuba)

Greg Czuba reports one policy is in the queue and one deferred at this time.

### e. **Strategic Planning** (Brian Smith/ Kent Glossop)

Brian Smith reporting the Brainstorming session for Long-term Sustainability, Part 2. Committee is assembling and prioritizing ideas. Next step will be to delegate them for research and the committee may reach outside of Strategic Planning for this task.

## **9. Board Chairman ( Brian Smith)**

### **a. New Application for a STEM Charter School**

Brian Smith reported a new application for a STEM Charter School and asked Thomas Frischknecht representing Founders Academy Foundation to describe this announcement. Thomas Frischknecht proceeded with the fact that Founders Academy Foundation's mission is to create new public charter schools, assist existing public charter schools, and establish scholarship funds for public charter school graduates. Thomas Frischknecht then redirected the discussion to the author of the application, Mr. Michael White.

Mr. Michael White reviewed his background with Founders Academy Foundation, history with ASD and provided a copy of the application to the Director, Jenn Cava which was filed at the Department of Education. He went on to explain the evolution of this application for a STEM public charter school grade 6-12, demographically located at least 1 hour away; likely to be located in the Rockingham/Strafford area. The application requests opening Fall 2016 with 100 students and growing to 650.

Jenn Cava expressed her concern that the application contained language directly linking ASD with the New Hampshire Institute for Science and Technology. She stated that this is a misrepresentation.

A lively discussion was had about the announcement of the Founders Academy Foundation sponsoring a new STEM school application in the Rockingham/Stratford Area. Issues presented were those of the ASD community, reputation, sustainability, as well as potential collaboration opportunities were voiced.

### **b. Makeup of the Board, post June 2015 (many slots are up for renewal)**

Brian Smith indicated the Board will have 1 external board opening and 3 parent board openings for the new election year for the June induction. As such it was suggested a letter be sent out to the ASD community to look for interest and nominations for these positions.

Heather MacDonald made a motion to approve the 3 parent board member openings, 2nd by Kim Lavallee. All were in favor, so moved.

## **7. Next Meeting**

a. Wed, April 8, 2015 at 6:30pm

b. Agenda items

- short term evacuation plan
- policies

Heather Bobbitt made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm 2nd by Kim Lavallee, all in favor, so

moved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Bobbitt  
Secretary