

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Lauren Wisely, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Members Virtual: Lauren Wisely, Chris Moody, Steve Burke, Patches Hill, Uday Jani, Todd Hickman, Sara Messina Precious Benson, Darlene O’Neill, Chris Schell, Heather Applegate, Lance Manlove and Marty Cosgrove (arrived @ 4:15 pm)

Staff Present: Eric M. Anderson, Head of School, Duncan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Franny Silcott, Director of Human Resources, Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary, and Gina Derrickson, Director of Development

Board Members Absent: none

Visitors: Jennifer Scott, President PTA Elementary School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Precious Benson to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

Sussex Academy held their SY22 Lottery on January 20, 2021. Over 1,200 applications were received for approximately 200 spots for grades K – 12.

Anthony D’Antonio was hired as the new Academic Counselor. The school hosted a Meet and Greet on January 21 at 6 p.m. via Zoom to introduce Mr. D’Antonio to our high school community.

PSAT testing for juniors was held on January 26, 2021.

Senior Service Projects for the sophomore class is moving forward. There will be a meeting on January 24, 2021.

Student directed production of Frozen, Jr. was held on February 4, 5 & 6 at 7 p.m. with limited seating. There was also a screening virtual option. The high school Drama Department is moving forward with Into the Woods and an abbreviated production of Chicago this spring.

Mr. Anderson held a Zoom DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) meeting with students on January 21, 2021.

High School spring sports begin March 1. Middle School sports begin April 12 with an 8 game season only.

Mr. Anderson will be holding focus group meetings with teachers on February 24 to discuss grading post COVID.

The formation meeting for the secondary PTSA was held on February 10 at 7pm. New officers were installed. Dean’s will schedule an introduction meeting with new officers.

IB teachers will be meeting to discuss the possible phase-out of the IB diploma program and to add additional AP courses. There will be a meeting with sophomore parents to discuss.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Duncan Smith reported:

A motion was made by Precious Benson to accept the January 31, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Chris Moody seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

A motion was made by Todd Hickman to approve the FY21 Operating Budget. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

A motion was made by Steve Burke to establish a National Honor Society School Store checking account. Chris Moody seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

SUSSEX ACADEMY FOUNDATION UPDATE

No report was presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

No report was presented.

Finance

Report was covered under monthly report.

Outreach

Written report was presented.

Building & Grounds

No report was presented.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

No report was presented.

School Performance Committee

No report presented.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Anderson gave an update on where the state is on vaccinating educators and staff. Updates were given in regard to May's graduation guidelines.

Revised Board Policy 519

The policy was tabled for further discussion until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Openings 2021-22

The board will be taking applications for new board members with backgrounds in legal policy and finance.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chris Moody to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:51 p.m. Lauren Wisely announced that the Executive Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to 29 Delaware Code 10004b(9) regarding legal/personnel issues and would not return to the public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary