

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Lauren Wisely, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 and Lance Manlove

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

Board Members Absent: Chris Schell and Martin Cosgrove

Visitors: Jennifer Scott, President PTA Elementary School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Darlene O’Neill to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2020 Executive Board meeting. Precious Benson seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

A motion was made by Chris Moody to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2020 Executive Board meeting. Patches Hill seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

Sussex Academy reopened the New Year with a week of virtual learning (1/4 – 1/8) and returned as in-person hybrid model on January 11.

On January 5, we held our Informational Virtual Choice Open House.

On January 8th Sussex Academy sent out a Learning Location Survey to all parents requesting families to decide what method they would like for the second semester.

Winter sports completion started when we returned for the New Year.

Student directed production of Frozen, Jr. is set to get underway on February 4, 5 & 6 at 7 p.m. with limited seating.

SY22 lottery was held today with a record number of applicants in grades K-11. As the school becomes over subscribed, we are hoping to discuss with the SA Foundation Board to start up a capitol campaign to expand the elementary school.

Debbie Fees, Academic Counselor, has accepted a position with Delaware Tech as a Career and College Counselor. Tony D’Antonio has been hired as her replacement. There will be a Meet and Greet on January 21 at 6 p.m. via Zoom to introduce Mr. D’Antonio to our high school community.

Sussex Academy held an Information Night for families that were interested in getting a head start on the college application process in the interim of hiring a college counselor. We had representatives from college placement counseling consulting come in to do a presentation on the services they offer. The parents paid for these services if they were interested.

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There will be a formation meeting for the secondary PTSA on February 10 at 7pm.

PSAT for juniors will be held Tuesday, January 26th.

Cohort 1 will have classes on Wednesday, January 27th.

Sussex Academy has partnered with the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence who has submitted their charter application for this year. We are working in conjunction with a company called JOUNCE to do some on boarding with their new school leader, Kirstein Kroner. She will be working/observing with some of our teachers in a coaching aspect.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Duncan Smith reported:

A motion was made by Precious Benson to accept the November 30, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Lance Manlove seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

A motion was made by Todd Hickman to accept the December 31, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Chris Moody seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Duncan Smith also presented the drafted FY21 Operating Budget.

SUSSEX ACADEMY FOUNDATION UPDATE

No report was presented.

Lauren Wisely suggested setting up an ADHOC Committee for the elementary expansion. Eric Anderson requested to anyone who is interested in setting up an initial meeting to contact him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

No report was presented.

Finance

Report was covered under monthly report.

Outreach

Written report was presented.

Building & Grounds

Lance Manlove gave an update on the live streaming video service for sports.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

The Policy Committee met in November. Heather Applegate gave an overview of Policy 202 – Membership & Organization and Policy 509 – Child Protection Policy.

School Performance Committee

No report presented. Chris Moody reported there will be no meetings moving forward until the fall.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Update

Eric Anderson reported on the schools plan to move forward into the 2nd semester with remote/hybrid learning based on the learning location survey results. COVID vaccinations are now available to educators with elevated risks and should roll out to all others by February with final rounds of second shots to be completed in March.

Policy 202 – Membership & Organization

A motion was made by Steve Burke to accept the drafted revised Policy 202 – Membership & Organization. Darlene O’Neill seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Precious Benson to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:56 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