

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Martin Cosgrove, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Board Members Present: Martin Cosgrove, Lauren Wisely, Heather Applegate, Steve Burke, Uday Jani, Lance Manlove, Sara Messina, Chris Moody, Darlene O’Neill, Chris Schell, Jen Scott, Denise Wells

Board Members Absent: Precious Benson

Staff Present: Eric M. Anderson, Head of School, Tom Peet, Dean of STEM, Janet Owens, Dean of Humanities, Franny Silcott, Director of Human Resources, Duncan Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary, Gina Derrickson, Director of Development

Visitors: Jennifer Leonard (faculty), Connie Hendricks (Jefferson School)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Darlene O’Neill to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2020 Executive Board meeting. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Marty Cosgrove thanked Jenn Scott for her many years of service on the board of directors and serving as a two-term president. Jenn Scott also thanked Denise Wells, who is also leaving the board, for her many years of service as well.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

Seniors last day was May 15 and locker clean out was held on May 19.

Senior awards dinner was held virtually on Wednesday, June 3.

Steve Bastianelli held a virtual sports banquet on Tuesday, June 2.

DOE changed its graduation guidelines to allow the school to hold a face-to-face graduation versus a drive-in ceremony. Graduation was held on the turf field on Friday evening June 12 (rain date). The school’s scoreboard was damaged by a large piece of equipment while preparing for the ceremony. The company will repair the scoreboard.

Sussex Academy had 97 12th grade students in the Class of 2020. 96 graduated and one student graduated from Groves.

Underclassman’s last day was June 5. Locker clean out was held on June 8 and 9. 8th grade teachers were in attendance to send off their students and also prepared a moving up farewell video that is posted on our Facebook page.

PTA Elementary installed their officers for the SY20-21. We are working on getting the secondary PTA up and running.

Teacher and Administrative positions were filled. We are hoping to add an additional secretary and a custodian with extra units.

The 6th grade team is organizing a virtual Meet & Greet the Teacher.

Connie Hendricks, Head of Elementary School, will be holding a virtual elementary school staff meeting.

Pool deck is complete and the re-opening is scheduled for Monday, June 29.

Maria Edgerton, Aquatics Coordinator, will be leaving us to take a position as the Director of the pool at the consortium. Lydia Schmierer will be the new Aquatics Director.

DE Charter School Network recently sent a survey out to families to obtain feedback with their experience of remote learning.

Sussex Academy will be sending out the board survey to parents and students on June 18. The questions are the same as last year and the closing date is June 30th.

State working groups are meeting to develop a plan about re-opening in the fall.

NCS conference will be held virtually. The dates are July 16, 23 and 30.

Office moves will start this summer. Human Resources and the business office will relocate to the main garage to be utilized as a District Office.

On July 1, custodians will head to the elementary school to prepare for the fall opening.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Burke reported:

A motion was made by Steve Burke to approve the May 31, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Chris Moody seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

SUSSEX ACADEMY FOUNDATION UPDATE

Foundation report will be held in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

No report was presented.

Finance

No report was presented.

Outreach

No report was presented.

Building & Grounds

Written report was presented. Lance Manlove reported the pool deck repair is wrapping up and almost complete.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

No report was presented.

Ad Hoc Grant Research

No report was presented.

Ad Hoc Director Evaluation Committee

No report presented.

Ad Hoc Student Welfare Committee

No report was presented.

OLD BUSINESS

K – 12 Update

Eric Anderson reported under the Director's Report.

COVID-19 Update

Eric Anderson updated the board on some preliminary thoughts for next year assuming we can only come back in a partial capacity. K – 6 would be spread throughout the buildings and 7 – 12 would be all online. He would like to wait a see what direction the state and governor takes.

Board Elections/Board Vacancies

Jennifer Scott made a motion to appoint Lauren Wisely as the SY2020-21 President to the Board of Directors. Denise Wells seconded; the motion carried. Lauren Wisely accepted the nomination. The motion passed (11-0-1). Lauren Wisely abstained.

Jennifer Scott made a motion to appoint Chris Moody as the SY2020-21 Vice President to the Board of Directors. Lauren Wisely seconded; the motion carried. Chris Moody accepted the nomination. The motion passed (11-0-1). Chris Moody abstained.

Jennifer Scott made a brief summary of each new board candidate (A, B & C) to the board.

Candidate A, all in favor (10 – 2)

Candidate B, all in favor (11 – 1)

Candidate C, all in favor (3 – 9)

Jennifer Scott – A & B

Uday Jani – A & B

Sara Messina – A & B

Chris Moody – A & B

Chris Schell – A & C

Steve Burke – B & C

Lance Manlove – B & C

Heather Crown – A & B

Lauren Wisely – A & B

Marty Cosgrove – A & B

Denise Wells – A & B

Darlene O'Neil – A & B

NEW BUSINESS

Compensation for Custodians and Paras

Eric Anderson and Duncan Smith reported:

Jenn Scott will schedule a Compensation Committee meeting in the next few weeks with Chris Moody, Steve Burke, Duncan Smith, Eric Anderson and Franny Silcott to address the pay/salary scale for the custodians/paraprofessionals.

Summer Board Retreat

Lauren Wisely will be emailing a survey to determine if the board will be comfortable meeting in July for the annual summer retreat meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:45 p.m. Martin Cosgrove announced that the Executive Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to 29 Delaware Code 10004b(9) to discuss personnel issues and would not return to the public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary

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