

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Minutes
March 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chris Moody, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chris Moody, Patches Hill, Brittany Burslem, Jennifer Donahue, Lance Manlove (via Zoom), Darlene O’Neill, Lauren Wisely, Chris Schell, Sara Messina, and Uday Jani (arrived at 4:04)

Board Members Absent: Precious Benson and Jennifer Scott

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

Visitors: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jennifer Donahue to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022 Executive Board meeting. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

In February, Mr. Anderson had the opportunity to attend a virtual conference through The National Alliance that we belong to as a charter school. Mr. Anderson met with representatives from Senator Coons and Senator Carper’s office, as well as, a representative from Lisa Blunt Rochester’s office to discuss the charter school landscape. Representative Rochester will visit the school on May 3 and Senator Carper will visit before the end of the school year. There are some house bills that have been introduced that have been deemed anti charter.

School tours for the elementary school and secondary school for prospective lottery students were offered earlier this month.

Matilda, Jr. the middle school production was a huge success.

The March 18th Intent to Return due date has passed. Mr. Anderson passed along the numbers of students not returning next year to the board.

SAT testing was held today, March 23 and was completely digital. There was some confusion regarding College Board no longer requiring the essay portion of the test; however, Delaware Code still requires the accountability of the test to require the essay portion. Mr. Anderson is looking into purchasing a new software system for our sophomore and juniors. This software will allow them to take a practice test and it will individualize a learning plan for them in the areas where there are areas of weakness.

The PTSA sponsored a T1 and T2 honor roll breakfast for middle and high school students on Monday, March 28th.

Mr. Anderson has seen a noticeable moral boost since the mask mandate ended for both students and staff. Masks are still optional.

Spring sports kick-off has started this week.

This year's Junior/Senior prom will be held at Baywood on Saturday, April 9th.

Mr. Anderson reported that we are still working on our strategic plan and that sub-committees have been meeting diligently. A rough draft will be presented to the board in May.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Duncan Smith reported:

Monthly Financial Reports

A motion was made by Darlene O'Neill to approve the February 28, 2022 Financial Report as presented. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

No report presented.

Finance

Under Finance Report.

Outreach

No report presented.

Building & Grounds

Chris Schell reported that SCD (Sussex Conservation District) approval has been received from the county to start working on the proposed tennis courts.

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the temporary track. The track has been dug out and scraped and we are in discussions to have a permanent track completed.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

Jennifer Donahue reported that she and Jennifer Scott met on March 18, and have been viewing policies changes and updates for proposed changes. Ms. Donahue would like to propose a meeting with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Smith to get some background and history on the older policies before proposing any new changes.

School Performance Committee

No report presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Please do not forget to mail in your check for the board scholarship.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:25 p.m. Chris Moody announced that the Executive Board would be going into Executive Session and would not return to the public session. Uday Jani made a motion to move to Executive Session. Darlene O'Neill seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary

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