**Sussex AcademyExecutive Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes**

**March 17, 2021**

# CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALLLauren Wisely, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Eric M. Anderson, Head of School, Gina Derrickson, Director of Development, Connie Hendricks, Dean of Elementary School, Sherry MacBury, Dean of High School, Thomas Peet, Dean of Middle School, Franny Silcott, Director of Human Resources, Duncan Smith, Chief Operating Officer

Board Members Absent: Steve Burke

Visitors: Jennifer Scott, President PTA Elementary School and Lorri Petty (middle school and high school parent)

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES

# A motion was made by Precious Benson to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

# PUBLIC COMMENTS

# Lorri Petty questioned who is responsible for make the decision for students to return to school. She has heard it is the School Board’s decision and the Governor’s decision.

Eric Anderson reported that there are some discrepancies with this subject and he will get clarification and release a school statement.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT**

*Eric Anderson reported:*

The Sussex Academy Aquatic Center successfully hosted the Delaware Swim Championships in February.

Due to lack of participants, the Senior Trip to Disney World has been cancelled.

A Senior/Junior Prom will be held on campus on April 24.

An outdoor commencement will be held on June 4.

Plans are being made for 5th and 8th grade moving up ceremonies.

Plans are being made for other end of year events for all grades.

Secretary of Education, Dr. Susan Bunting, visited the elementary school last week. It was a quick visit and she hopes to return soon.

The grading focus groups were held last week for all grade level teachers. Eric Anderson will forward the information to the Executive Board members.

High school spring sports have started. Middle school spring sports will begin following spring break.

An expansion discussion meeting will be held next week.

**High School Trimester and Course Selection Updates**

*Dr. Sherry MacBury reported about high school:*

A 5x3 trimester schedule is being discussed.

Study halls will become optional; no longer mandatory.

New elective class offerings will be available.

Dual enrollment with Del Tech will be eliminated.

IB will be phased out (current 10th and 11th grade students can still participate)

Implementation of Naviance (to help streamline the college tracking and application process).

The current 10th grade class received a class information survey. The results of the 133 responses were:

11 interested in the IB Diploma Program

40 interested in IB courses

49 interested in AP courses

19 interested in CP or Honors courses

14 required additional information

Chris Moody requested data to support the possibility of phasing out Dual Enrollment with Del Tech.

**MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT**

*Duncan Smith reported:*

A motion was made by Todd Hickman to accept the February 28, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**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**

*Lance Manlove reported:*

There is a computer issue with turf field live streaming camera. They are working to have repaired before the first lacrosse game.

A meeting is scheduled with school administrators to discuss the tennis courts. An update will be provided at the April Sussex Academy Executive Board meeting.

A meeting is scheduled about the school expansion project. An update will be provided at the April Sussex Academy Executive Board meeting.

**Governance (Policy & Legislative)**

*Heather Applegate reported:*

A revision to the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children policy has been updated and sent to teachers with explanations. A meeting is scheduled for next week.

Evaluations and new Board member training will be discussed by the committee and a report will be presented at the April Sussex Academy Executive Board meeting.

**School Performance Committee**

No report presented.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***COVID-19***

*Eric Anderson reported:*

All Delaware educators and Board members have been invited to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The administration is working on creative ways to bring students back to the building full time. This will involve the use of outdoor areas and indoor weather contingency locations. Some students, while on property, may still participate in virtual learning.

*Dr. Sherry MacBury reported:*

Sussex Academy High School has 120 students attending four days per week. This includes all those from 10th and 12th grade that made the request. There are 11 students remaining on the 9th grade waiting list and 21 students remaining on the 11th grade waiting list.

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***Board Policy Updates***

Lauren Wisely asked Heather Applegate to start the process to update Policy 501 to eliminate special preference and interviews from the lottery process.

***Board Openings 2021-22***

*Lauren Wisely reported:*

Marty Cosgrove will be leaving the Sussex Academy Executive Board as he has served his time limit. The nominating committee will convene this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***End of Year Events-*This was discussed during the Head of School Report**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Uday Jani to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m. Heather Applegate seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:14 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,

Gina Derrickson, Director of Development