

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Minutes
October 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Jennifer Donahue, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Board Members Present: Jennifer Donahue, Patches Hill, Chris Moody, Board Member Emeritus, Brittany Burslem, Shante Hastings (via ZOOM), Sara Messina, Ed Hale, Erin Perchiniak, Justina Thomas, Jill Green, Chris Brown, Lance Manlove, and Joe Schell, Board Member Emeritus (via ZOOM).

Board Members Absent: Amy Goodhue and Uday Jani

Staff Present: Eric M. Anderson, Head of School, Janet Owens, Asst. Head of School, Sherry MacBury, Director of Student Services, Tom Peet, Director of Special Services, Connie Hendricks, Director of Elementary School (via ZOOM), Michelle Haiste, Business Manager (via ZOOM), Andi Davis, Finance Manager, Jeff Shade, IT & Building & Grounds, and Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary.

Staff Absent: Franny Silcott, Director of Human Resources,

Visitors: Jerry Green, parent (via ZOOM), Nicole Lehman, parent/sports boosters, and Becky Ghabour (parent) and Michael Kalil, GM Baseball team.

MODIFY AGENDA

A motion was made by Brittany Burslem to move Executive Session before the Head of School report. Chris Brown seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ed Hale to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 Executive Board meeting with minor grammatical changes. Erin Perchiniak seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Chris Brown at 4:31 p.m. to enter into Executive Session. Ed Hale seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

A motion was made by Lance Manlove to return to regular session. Patches Hill seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

MODIFY AGENDA

A motion was made by Chris Brown to move the Monthly Board Financial report to before the Head of School report. Jill Green seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Haiste reported:

A motion was made by Chris Brown to approve the September 30, 2023 Financial Report as presented. Erin Perchiniak seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

9/26 – Twin Poets visited the high school for a poetry workshop.

10/11 – Civil Rights Movement through hip hop fundamentals with the middle school.

10/9 – 10/13 - Homecoming Week:

- Field Hockey, Volleyball & Soccer games
- Spirit Week
- Powder Puff game
- Homecoming Dance

The Delaware Compensation Committee wrapped up its sessions this week. They will be reporting their findings to the Governor.

The state is proposing partial funding for a technology position for IT based on unit count.

Upcoming Events:

- 10/26 Choice Open House 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 10/27 & 10/28 - Fall Musical - Carrie
- 11/2 – Sports Boosters Scholarship Fundraiser at Revelation Brewery – Georgetown, DE
- 11/6 – 11/17 – French Exchange students visiting
- SA Elementary School has a new sheep named Clover
- 10/26 – SAES Fall Festival 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 10/27 – SAES Halloween parade

Mr. Anderson gave an update on FFA. After following up with the state, our Environmental Science class does qualify us for a CTE track and we are working on having an official FFA club established.

Mike Kalil, GM of our SA baseball team, presented to the board a funding opportunity for a new baseball field on SA grounds. Mr. Kalil was happy to announce that with assistance from parents, Jerry Green, Matt Brittingham, and Scott Dostal they were able to have a phone conference with Melvin Joseph Construction Co. to completely fund a baseball field. Also, there was a phone conference with CEO Kenny Adams and he is very interested in attending a on-site visit.

Mr. Peet reported:

Mr. Thomas Peet gave a presentation to the board on SY23-24 Needs Based Funding.

A motion was made by Chris Brown to approve a paraprofessional support position to the 6th grade team and to also add a second paraprofessional support position which will cover ½ day at the elementary school and ½ day support at the high school. Jill Green seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

Dr. Macbury shared the parent survey results from previous summers as to why families are choosing not to return to SA in the fall.

Dr. MacBury reported on the purpose of the Academic Review Board and the new attendance policy for SY23-24.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Joe Schell reported:

No report presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

No report presented.

Finance

Presented under Monthly Board Financial Report. Next CBOC meeting 10/24/23.

Outreach

No report presented.

Building & Grounds

Lance Manlove reported:

- Building repairs to the gym roof that will be made in the next couple weeks.
- Requested \$240K in unassigned funds to utilize for building and ground immediate repairs.
- Creating a plan of action to make up the deficit of the long term reserves.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

A motion was made by Chris Brown to accept Policy 104 as written. Ed Hale seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0).

School Performance Committee

No report presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 404 – Activity Fee*

Moved under Governance

Investing in Long-Term Capital Reserves

Under Building and Grounds

NEW BUSINESS

National Alliance Visit

Tabled until the November meeting.

Needs Based Enrollment

Moved to the beginning of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Patches Hill at 6:33 p.m. to enter into Executive Session. Erin Perchiniak seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (11-0). The board will not be returning to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary