

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
October 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Mariah Calagione, Board President

Board Members Present: Chris Benjamin, Mariah Calagione, Martin Cosgrove, Adam Marsh, Chris Moody, James Nutter, Dustin Parker, Joe Schell, Jennifer Scott, Dean Swingle, Denise Westbrook, Lauren Wisely and Ilona Holland, via phone.

Staff Present: Patricia Oliphant, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Allen Stafford, Director of Finance and Operations and Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary

Guest: Steve Oscar, Athletic Director, Debbie Fees, Guidance Counselor and Gina Derrickson, Community & Community Manager.

Two Items were added to the Agenda under Director's Reports: Reward School and Information Request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Denise Westbrook to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 Executive Board meeting. Chris Moody seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Community Relations

Gina Derrickson updated the board about high school recruitment. Ads will be placed in local newspapers with information about upcoming open houses/school tours. There will be signs placed out in front of the school of when applications will be accepted.

IB

Debbie Fees presented information about the status of the IB Program. IB Program visitation is scheduled for October 23 and 24.

Calendar

A new calendar was presented to the board with PLC days delineated.

IDEA Award Dinner

Sussex Academy was honored with the Founders Award and the Excellence in Academics Award at the IDEA dinner. Joe Schell was honored with the Cornerstone award. A press release will be issued.

Reward School

Sussex Academy received notification that they are a Reward school for the second year in a row. There will be a ceremony on November 18, 2014 at Beacon Middle School.

Information Request

Sussex Academy received a questionnaire from the ACLU.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Adam Marsh to accept the September 30, 2014 Financial Reports. Dean Swingle seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Sussex Academy Foundation Update

Joe Schell reported the Sussex Academy Foundation holds \$833K in reserves. 160 guests attended the October 4th dinner at Sussex Academy.

Executive

No report was presented.

Finance

Dean Swingle reported that the 2013-14 audit has been completed by Barbacane, Thornton & Co. A motion was made by Dean Swingle to approve the FY14 Audit Financial Statement. Adam Marsh seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

The auditors recommended that the school file a form 990 to amend the last 3 years taxes. The cost to file that amendment is \$4,250.00. A motion was made by Dean Swingle to file the form 990. Joe Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

The revised budget included grant funding that was received after the preliminary budget was presented in June. The Finance Committee recommended the purchase of a tractor for lawn maintenance and snow removal. Joe Schell made a motion to approve the purchase of a tractor. Denise Westbrook seconded; the motion passed unanimously. (12-0)

Public Relations

A full written report was presented in advance to the board.

Athletics

Martin Cosgrove reported on athletics. Discussion items for the future include:

1. Charging admission into Sussex Academy games.
2. Security on grounds during sporting events.
3. Medical personnel/trainers at sports practices/games for medical emergencies.
4. Utilizing a space to have a strengthening and conditioning room.

Costs will be compiled and then represented to the board.

Building and Grounds

Joe Schell reported that the cost of Phase II is \$10 million dollars. The school has obtained a \$4.0 million dollar loan from the USDA at 4.0 % interest over the next 40 years. The additional \$6.0 million will come from donors.

This winter Sussex Academy will be working on the 2 current sports fields. The direction of the fields will be changed and sod will be replaced.

Recognition

Jen Scott reported Policy 202 states that the Recognition Committee should be comprised of a minimum of three Executive Board members; currently there is only one. Volunteers are needed from the board willing to serve.

Program Development

No report was presented.

Legislative

Jaime Nutter reported he is reaching out to the Charter School Network to see if there are any pressing issues we need to address. This will determine our meeting frequency. The State Legislature is not currently in session so there are no pressing issues.

Policy

Jaime Nutter reported updating the student electronic/social media policy.

Library

Ilona Holland submitted a written library working group report in advance to the board.

OLD BUSINESS**Performance Fund Grant**

Mr. Stafford reported Sussex Academy received a \$165K Performance Fund Grant.

Small, Rural School Achievement Grant

Mr. Stafford reported Sussex Academy would be receiving a \$21,450K Rural School Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Conflict of interest was discussed. Board members submitted their affirmation statements.

Allen Stafford discussed the benefits of leasing solar panels. More discussion will be held at the November board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to enter Executive Session at 5:51 p.m. by Adam Marsh. Joe Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

A motion was made by Adam Marsh at 6:18 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Joe Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m. Adam Marsh made a motion to adjourn. Joe Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers,
Board Secretary