

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors In Person/Virtual Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Lauren Wisely, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Board Members Present: Lauren Wisely, Heather Applegate, Marty Cosgrove, Patches Hill, Uday Jani, Todd Hickman, Lance Manlove, Sara Messina, Chris Moody (arrived at 4:25)

Board Members Virtual: Precious Benson, Darlene O'Neill, Chris Schell, and Steve Burke

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

Staff Absent: Janet Owens, Dean of Accountability

Visitors: Al Perrine, Chief Custodian

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Uday Jani to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2020 Executive Board meeting. Heather Applegate seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

AGENDA AMENDED

A motion was made by Darlene O'Neill to move Item A, Swear in New Board Members, under Public Comments. Precious Benson seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

SWEAR IN NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Todd Hickman and Patches Hill took the Oath of Office.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

Mr. Anderson gave a COVID-19 update on our school level plan for reopening Sussex Academy.

SA held a fully remote pickup day for students on September 10 & 11.

Elementary Open House was held on September 10 in two separate cohorts.

Chromebooks have been delayed but we are working diligently with vendors to get technology into the hands of students that need them.

Custodians have a plan in place to clean common surface areas regularly every few hours to sanitize. Students are also sharing in the responsibility and were given sanitation wipes to clean their desk surfaces.

State of Delaware will provide all staff with regular COVID testing if needed. This testing is not mandatory.

SA is still waiting for guidance from the state regarding student accountability.

SA has a new grading system that is inline with guidance from DOE and reopening of the school.

SA had its first couple days with COHORT 1 and with all things aside it went exceptionally well. Students adhered to mask policies, stayed socially distanced, and were very respectful to others.

Sports Update: DIAA board voted to have fall sports start on September 28 and this will go to the state board on September 17 for final approval. Steve Bastianelli has been in touch with all his coaches and is in the process of planning all the logistics.

Construction has begun on the infrastructure of the Route 9 and Airport Rd. intersection. This could cause higher traffic, bus, and parent transportation delays.

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training is underway with staff. We started with a kick off that included the administration and Lauren Wisely attended as Board President. On the second week of school all three schools had the opening session and this training will be on going for the year.

Due to COVID and the requirements that we are unable to take any class trips, the senior class trip had to be cancelled. If conditions happen to change Mrs. Messina will do her best to make sure that some type of trip experience happens for our seniors.

The DE Charter Network will be doing an online conference this year instead of an in-person conference.

Over the summer our PTA was formed for the elementary school. Jen Scott is the President. Our High School PTO is in the process of dissolving and we are working on getting a PTSA up and running for the middle and high school levels.

Sussex Academy facemasks are currently being sold for \$10. Please see Gina Derrickson for more information.

Else Leebel, who is a senior this year, has been working on her CAS project by collecting dental supplies for children. Else was recognized in a news segment on WRDE. A link is provided on our Sussex Academy Facebook page.

Mr. Anderson has been asked to participate on a panel for school reopening with the DE Charter Network and legislators in October. The DE PTA has also asked Mr. Anderson to sit on a panel with the Governor and Secretary of Education to discuss Sussex Academy's reopening.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Duncan Smith reported:

A motion was made by Lauren Wisely to accept the June 30, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Marty Cosgrove seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

A motion was made by Lauren Wisely to accept the July 31, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Marty Cosgrove seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

A motion was made by Lauren Wisely to accept the August 31, 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Marty Cosgrove seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

SUSSEX ACADEMY FOUNDATION UPDATE

No report presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

Lauren Wisely reported that there was a Zoom meeting was held the month of August to give an update on the school reopening plan from the administration to the executive committee.

Finance

No report was presented.

Outreach

Next meeting will be held September 22, 2020.

Building & Grounds

No report was presented.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

Heather Applegate reported that she met with Susie Mitchell to review the responsibilities of this meeting and put together a draft of SY21 objectives. Finalized details will be coming within the next few weeks.

School Performance Committee

Chris Moody reported what the new School Performance Committee will focus on three areas:

- Head of School Evaluation
- Academic Performance of the School
- Goals of the Strategic Plans

All of these will be aligned through the course of the year consisting of committee of board members and community members. A meeting will be scheduled in early October and will meet four times a year.

OLD BUSINESS***K – 12 Update***

Covered under Head of School report.

COVID-19 Update

Covered under Head of School report.

Compensation for Custodians and Paras

Pay scales were put in place for Sussex Academy custodians and paraprofessionals.

NEW BUSINESS***Swear in New Board Members***

Moved to beginning of meeting under Public Comments.

POLICY 202

Policy 202 was tabled until the October 21 board meeting.

Revised School Calendar

A motion was made by Todd Hickman to accept the revised SY20-21 calendar. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (13-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:13 p.m. Lauren Wisely announced that the Executive Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to 29 Delaware Code 10004b(9) and would not return to the public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary