

Sussex Academy
Executive Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chris Moody, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chris Moody, Lauren Wisely, Patches Hill (left 4:52), Uday Jani, Lance Manlove, Sara Messina, Steve Burke, Chris Schell, Uday Jani (arrived at 4:11 pm)

Board Members Absent: Precious Benson and Darlene O'Neill

Staff Present: Eric M. Anderson, Head of School, Tom Peet, Dean of Accountability, 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

Visitors: Matt Oliver

OATH OF OFFICE

Jennifer Scott, Brittany Burslem, and Jennifer Donahue were sworn in by taking the Oath of Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Uday Jani to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Chris Schell seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

A motion was made by Jennifer Scott to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Lauren Wisely seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

A motion was made by Uday Jani to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Lauren Wisely seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion to Amend Agenda: A motion was made by Steve Burke to move Public Comments from Item #3 to Item #4. Jennifer Scott seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Eric Anderson reported:

SA had a number of high school students leave this year for other districts, homeschool, online options and private schools. Additional seats were offered to students in grade K-8 from the waitlist.

Chris Schell spoke regarding students leaving due to lack of exposure to colleges and academics. Eric Anderson reported we are offering college visits and the school's changing direction to offer more AP courses for more college exposure.

Our new counselor is planning to start on October 25. In the meantime, all hands are on deck with the absence of an academic counselor. Dr. Macbury has been handling one on one meetings with each senior. We also have brought in trained counselors to guide students through the college process.

Duncan Smith rented a U-Haul truck to pick-up loaner desks from our charter community in Wilmington.

The Route 9 West intersection from Lewes turning left onto Airport Rd. has been added. They are still continuing to work on the Route 9 East right turn lane onto Airport Rd.

Tom Peet reported on bus shortages due to the increase in bus ridership and lack of drivers. SA is continuing to look for drivers that carry a CDL license to help with those shortages. A bus ridership survey was sent to all parents to gather more data to handle capacity issues.

Mr. Anderson reported on issues of soap and paper towel dispensers being destroyed as part of a national TikTok video challenge. We have been working around making sure all supplies are available to students.

Due to grades K-6 students being ineligible to receive the COVID vaccination, we are beginning to see an increase of students being sent home due to exposure. We are working on virtual opportunities for students that need to quarantine to keep up with their classes.

Lighthouse Catering in Georgetown is our new food vendor. New this year are ala carte items such as; ice cream, chips and fruit.

PTA installed new officers.

PTSA installed new officers mid-year in 2021.

Calendar Events

8/29 - Seahawk Soirée – Camp Arrowhead

8/30 - Teachers returned

9/7 - Students K-5 & 6 and 9 grades returned

9/8 - All students returned

9/17 – Sr. Class Quarter Auction

Shout out to SA High School soccer team for currently being undefeated

9/21, 22 & 23 - Back to School Nights

10/7 - SA Elementary Movie Night

10/16 – Virtual Choice Open House

10/23 – Homecoming Dance

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Scott read an email from Andrew Brubacker regarding his view on mask federal and state mandates. Mrs. Samantha Brubacker sent Jennifer Scott an email which was forwarded to the board for review.

MONTHLY BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Duncan Smith reported:

A motion was made by Chris Schell to approve end of FY21 Financial Report as presented. Steve Burke seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

A motion was made by Steve Burke to accept the July 31, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Uday Jani seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

A motion was made by Steve Burke to accept the August 31, 2021 Financial Reports as presented. Jennifer Scott seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

SUSSEX ACADEMY FOUNDATION UPDATE

No report presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive/Nominating/Succession

Jennifer Scott shared some information regarding governance.

Finance

Under Finance Report

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Outreach

No report presented.

Building & Grounds

Lance Manlove reported on K – 5 expansion and feasibility study.

Lance also reported that parents have reached out to him regarding an upgrade to the stadium sound PA system. We have a parent that has stepped up to pay \$3,500 of the 6K cost. Additional funds will either be fundraised or from the SA Foundation.

Governance (Policy & Legislative)

No report presented.

School Performance Committee

No report presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Chris Moody has asked that all board members financial trainings are up-to-date.

Conflict of Interest statements must be re-signed every year. Please fill out and return to Andrea.

NEW BUSINESS

2021-22 Board Committee Assignments

Chris Moody requested any board members who would like to sign up for a committee or come off a committee to advise him.

COVID Leave Extension

State of DE has extended the COVID relief policy until 12/31/21. Policy will be tabled until the November meeting as a voting item. This leave policy will be retroactive once approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:58 p.m. Jennifer Scott announced that the Executive Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to 29 Delaware Code 10004b(9) regarding personnel and would not return to the public session. Lance Manlove seconded; the motion carried. The motion passed unanimously (12-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Rogers, Board Secretary