

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Thetford Academy Library

MINUTES

Cameron Cudhea (President) convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were the following:

Trustees: Cameron Cudhea, Gio Bosco, Ann Bumpus, Melody Brown Burkins, Bob Christensen, Shannon Darrah, Karl Furstenberg, Kate Hesser (telephonically), Suzanna Liepmann, Therese Linehan, Jon Stableford, Donna Steinberg, Jim Wilson

Administration: Bill Bugg (Head of School), Linda Lanteigne-Magoon (CFO)

Absent: Peter Boyd, Zoe Keller, Lindsey Klecan, Hilary Linehan, Susie Weider, Carrie Wells, Ben Williams

1. Approval of October 12, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Accept the minutes of October 12, 2017, with one edit.

Moved: Jon Stableford

Seconded: Melody Brown Burkins

Abstained: Gio Bosco

The motion passed.

Revisions to the September 14, 2017, meeting minutes, in agenda item #6:

- Delete oversight of NEASC from the duties of the Vice-President.
- Add "Oversight of the Head of School contract will be the responsibility of the Resources Committee."

Motion: Accept the revision of the minutes of September 14, 2017.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Cameron Cudhea

The motion passed.

2. Announcements

On behalf of Kate, Cameron reminded chairs of committees to submit progress reports on their work outlined in the strategic plan.

3. Financial Update

Suzanna reminded the Board that the report submitted to them covers the time period July 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017. As tuition payments from various towns were late in coming, TA needed to access its line of credit. The line of credit was paid off by the end of October. The audit is being wrapped up, with an anticipated report to the Resources Committee coming at the end of November. A report from the auditors will be offered at the December meeting. Form 990 will be available then as well.

In reviewing the sequence of events specific to the budget, the Board will need to vote on a tuition figure at the January meeting. A vote on the actual budget will take place in the fall once final enrollment numbers are known.

4. Board Management

Policy D2, “Grade Advancement: Promotion, Retention and Acceleration,” was presented for adoption.

The question was raised as to whether there was “pressure” to graduate students early. It was noted that the State is advocating for students to enter Vermont State Colleges and receive dual credit in their first year.

Motion: Accept Policy D2 as presented.

Moved: Gio Bosco

Seconded: Melody Brown Burkins

The motion passed unanimously.

Policy B4, “Drug and Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees,” was presented for adoption.

One edit was presented: to strike mention of the TA activities van in sentence 2.

Motion: Accept Policy B4 with the noted edit.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

The Head of School job description was offered for adoption. This came up as part of the NEASC re-accreditation process. It was agreed that the language “masters degree preferred” would be used, and a very few minor changes also were made to the job description.

Motion: Accept the Head of School job description with the noted edits.

Moved: Jim Wilson

Seconded: Therese Linehan

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Bicentennial

Patty McIlvaine spoke to the goals of the Bicentennial and highlighted several activities that are being considered. In addition to enhancing existing school events (e.g., Mountain Day, Founder’s Day, and the like), additional events such as a Community Service Project and a Speakers Series are being considered. Also, there is a plan to publish a book commemorating TA’s 200 years. An editor has been secured and potential funding has been identified. There would also be a Gala event in May/June of 2019.

The suggestion was made to reconvene some form of the Bicentennial planning committee. It was Patty’s thought that the Chairs of each event plus additional volunteers and Trustees

would constitute an executive committee. Cameron agreed to send an email to Trustees to gauge their interest and availability to serve on various event committees.

Additional discussion focused on how to engage community, parents, faculty, and students in the events.

6. Outdoor Education Center

Bill presented a brief overview of various building projects that could be considered, were the Board to embark on a capital campaign. From a monetary perspective, it was his suggestion that the only viable project would be the construction of an Outdoor Education Center.

Discussion centered on several points:

- How to embark on a building project during a time of declining enrollment
- How the outdoor education program addresses various educational needs
- The need for significant Trustee buy-in, both in the concept and in funds

Bill suggested that there was already known grant financial support for the building. Further, it was suggested that local individuals who might offer financial support would not necessarily give to a general fund at TA, thus the lack of “competition” for funds between a Bicentennial Annual Fund Campaign and a Capital Campaign. The suggestion was made that immediate energy should be put toward a Bicentennial Annual Fund Campaign with the hope of engaging more alumni while a silent phase of the building project could be considered.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Donna Steinberg

Seconded: Jon Stableford

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cameron Cudhea (President)