

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, May 9, 2019
Thetford Academy Library

MINUTES

Ann Bumpus (President) convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were the following:

Trustees: Ann Bumpus, Giovanni Bosco, Melody Burkins, Bob Christensen, Shannon Darrah (arrived 7:25 p.m.), Karl Furstenberg, Robin Junker-Boyce, Lindsey Klecan, Therese Linehan, Jonathan Stableford, Donna Steinberg, Ben Williams, Jim Wilson (arrived 7:26 p.m.)

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

Absent: Peter Boyd, Kate Hesser, Keith Lewandoski, Jeff Solsaa, Carrie Wells

1. Approval of April Minutes

Motion: Accept the minutes of April 11, 2019.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Lindsey Klecan

Abstained: Jonathan Stableford

The motion passed.

2. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

3. Report on Student Health (School Nurse & Dean of Students)

Sue Farrell (School Nurse) and Siobhan Lopez (Dean of Students) shared with the Board the results of the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This survey is put together by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is administered every other year. All schools in Vermont participated in the survey this year. The results presented were from 2017, because there was approximately an 18-month lag between when TA administered the survey in 2017 and when the results were received by the school. The survey looked at both risk factors and protective factors, and was administered to both middle- and high-school students (with the middle-school and high-school versions addressing similar issues, but in ways that were age-appropriate for each group).

A document providing highlights from the survey was distributed to Board members. For some questions on the survey (especially when responses were broken down by grade), TA was not provided with its survey results because the sample size was too small to be reliable. In the aggregate, however, TA students appeared to be doing better than the rest of Orange County with regard to both risk factors and protective factors. Sue reported that TA is always re-evaluating how the school can best support its students and best provide appropriate education about issues faced by adolescents -- such as mental health, sexual

health, transitioning to college/adulthood, preventing risky behavior, improving interpersonal skills, etc. Sue described the mental-health services available to students on campus this year and the plans for next year. Karl mentioned the use that some schools make of peer advisors as an additional support system, but he also noted the issues of confidentiality and liability that this raises for schools. Robin pointed out that it seemed odd that the survey asked only about depression and not about anxiety.

The Board thanked Sue and Siobhan for their thoughtful and informative presentation.

4. Head of School's Report

Bill reported on three things that happened yesterday:

- Operation Day's Work, TA's annual day of service, where TA students donated their labor in exchange for donations to a worthy organization (this year it was the Kenyan Schoolhouse Project).
- TA's annual Day of Giving, which went very well and, with donations still coming in, is expected to meet its goal. Patty McIlvaine (Director of Development & Communications), Molly Dugan-Sullivan (Coordinator of Counseling Services), Rebecca Walter (School Counselor), and five student volunteers worked tirelessly in behalf of TA. Therese commented that she thought the publicity for this event was very impressive, exciting, and fun.
- TA's Honors Celebration, the first "end-of-year" event for this school year.

Coming up next week is the Spring Musical "Once Upon a Mattress," followed by Arts Night, and then a couple of weeks later Baccalaureate, Class Day, Graduation, and Alumni Day.

In sports, the unusually-long spell of rainy weather has meant that the baseball and softball teams have yet to play a home game. All spring-sports teams are doing really well.

Lastly, Bill provided an enrollment update for next year, including applications from new international students.

5. Revised Proposed Operating Budget for FY20

Linda reviewed with the Board the revised proposed operating budget for FY20. She explained that it now includes the new signed maintenance agreement with Thetford Elementary School, as well as savings from solar net-metering. She proposed that any extra money should go to the capital reserve fund, as there will be some big projects coming up. Ben noted that salary increases for next year, if approved, must be taken into account.

Motion: Accept the proposed budget for FY20.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Partnership Agreement between TA & Town of Thetford

Lindsey and Shannon (Thetford Town Representative) presented for approval an updated Partnership Agreement between Thetford Academy and the Thetford Town School District. (The current agreement expires at the end of June.) The updated Partnership Agreement already had been reviewed by the members of the Thetford School Board, who had suggested some minor changes. The working group of Shannon, Lindsey, and Therese also suggested some minor changes of their own. There was a brief Board discussion, including a clarification of the description of interest charges on unpaid tuition balances.

Motion: Adopt the Partnership Agreement between Thetford Academy and the Thetford Town School District, with the minor changes discussed.

Moved: Donna Steinberg

Seconded: Therese Linehan

The motion passed unanimously.

It was arranged that Lindsey would make the necessary changes to the document, and Shannon would bring the revised version back to the Thetford School Board for adoption. Shannon noted that the Thetford School Board would be sharing the Partnership Agreement with the public at its next meeting before the School Board votes on the agreement.

The Board took a break from 8:37 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. and then reconvened.

7. Committee Reports

Board Management

- *Board Minutes:*

Therese shared with the Board some options for replacing Lindsey as recording secretary. There was a short discussion of the pros and cons.

Motion: Try out, for one year, employing a note-taker to record the Board's meeting minutes.

Moved: Jim Wilson

Seconded: Therese Linehan

The motion passed unanimously.

- *Board Meeting Dates:*

Therese presented a draft document with the Board meeting dates for next year.

Motion: Adopt the proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2019-20.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

- *Educational Support System Policy [D21]:*

Donna explained that the discussion of the Educational Support System policy [D21] has been postponed until the June meeting.

- *Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students [C28]:*

Lindsey raised a question about potentially-confusing language regarding students' use of gender-segregated facilities. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the BMC should take another look at this policy and then bring it back to the Board.

- *Policy on Student Publications [C27]:*

Donna proposed that this policy be deleted as unnecessary.

Motion: Delete the policy on Student Publications.

Moved: Donna Steinberg

Seconded: Therese Linehan

The motion passed unanimously.

- *Report from Nominating Committee (BMC):*

Donna reported that she and Gio each had met with a very strong candidate who has a finance background. She provided some additional information about the candidate, and she received the Board's approval to invite the candidate to the June meeting.

Advancement

Karl reported that TA's Day of Giving was successful, and the Annual Fund is ahead of where it was at this time last year (including outstanding pledges) due to the Bicentennial. Over recent years, the number of participants, the average gift size, and the growth from one year to the next have been increasing steadily, which bodes well for TA's future.

Personnel

Ben reported that the Personnel Committee has been very busy over the past couple of weeks. There have been meetings with faculty and others, and a lot of information-gathering. The negotiations for FY19 and FY20 are pending and making considerable progress, and should be complete in fairly short order.

Resources

Bob briefly reviewed the third-quarter financial report. Board members thanked Linda for the very helpful narrative which accompanied the report.

8. Town Reports

Thetford

Shannon reported that Thetford Elementary School has hired a new principal (Chance Lindsley), who will be starting on July 1. TES is hoping to connect the new principal with the new Head of School at TA sometime soon.

TES will be launching a number of projects this summer (work on the parking lot, etc.), and is looking forward to starting the custodial arrangements with TA on July 1.

Lyme

Karl reported that the Lyme-East Thetford bridge project is languishing. Questions have been raised about preserving the "historic character" of the bridge and whether to put in a pedestrian walkway and/or bike lane. Discussions are ongoing.

Strafford

Jon reported that the task force charged by the Strafford School Board to look into the Newton School's middle-school program is up and running, and the group is meeting every Monday. The task force is trying not to make a recommendation but instead to outline options, with the goal of completing this work by budget-building time in September.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Moved: Therese Linehan

Seconded: Giovanni Bosco

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Klecan (Clerk)