

HARPSWELL COASTAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 21, 2018

FINAL Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Sally Mackenzie, Chair
Cynthia Shelmerdine, Secretary
Nancy Andersen
Eileen Hornor
David Jean
Sue Priest
Sharon Whitney

Board Members Absent:

Ed Harris, Vice Chair

Administration:

Carrie Branson, Executive Director
Scott Barksdale, Div. 1 principal
Micah Depper
Andrew Smaha

Public:

Alan Yuodsnukis

I. Welcome and Call the Meeting to Order

Sally called the meeting to order at 4:33.

Consent Agenda: The Board unanimously accepted the Consent Agenda (February 14 Board Meeting minutes).

II. Vote on New Board Member

After a motion by Cynthia, seconded by Eileen, Sue Priest was elected to the Board by unanimous vote.

III. School Updates from Executive Director

Student symposiums at both campuses were successful.

New buses with cameras are coming.

New charter draft under discussion with Gina Post (Charter School Commission).

The Maine Leadership Evaluation and Professional Growth (LPEG) model is being used to evaluate the Leadership Team.

Summer programs: two 2 week sessions will be offered in 2018.

Current enrollment picture: a number of spots are open, as is typical at this point in the year. Our goal is 210, but our EPS for next year is set at 195, based the count of October 1, 2017.

IV. Introduction of New and Prospective Board Members

Round table introductions of those present.

V. Restorative Justice

Scott Barksdale described the restorative justice process used at the school, and took the Board through the experience of a community circle. The process includes both brief restorative breaks and whole conferences; the goal is to get at the reasons for a behavior, and encourage reflection afterward. Div. 2-3 is now starting a student-led restorative justice council.

VI. Calendar Adjustment

Due to the high number of snow days Carrie Branson asked the Board to approve two calendar changes for this school year:

1. Make Friday 13 April a regular school day instead of vacation day.
2. Extend Wednesday 2 May and Wednesday 30 May to full school days.

A motion to this effect by Eileen, seconded by Nancy, was approved by unanimous vote.

VII. Executive Committee

Votes were taken concerning the Propeller Project, after discussion at February meeting and some further discussion at this meeting.

1. Motion by Nancy, seconded by Eileen, that the School not accept John D'Anieri's offer to take over the Propeller Project.
2. Motion by Cynthia, seconded by Sharon, to accept John's offer to return remaining HCA Propeller Project funds to HCA.

Both motions were approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. Finance Committee

Andrew Smaha and Dave Jean reported that the School is expected to stay within the budget in FY '18. They presented a draft budget for FY '19 presented; a little more work to do on certain line items, and contracts are not in yet. Comments and questions can be emailed to Dave Jean.

IX. Advancement Committee

Andrew reports that we will likely hit our targets this year. An annual fund letter will go out next week, highlighting three projects that need money this year to launch.

May 17 event at Brunswick Inn, to unveil our next-five-year plan to community and potential donors. Send names of possible invitees to Andrew by April 2.

X. Academic Oversight Committee

Pathways (by whatever name is finally adopted) will launch next year. The plan has been crafted through a democratic effort by leadership team and full faculty. Three (or four) pathways--environmental studies, communication, service, and perhaps design thinking/engineering. Each will build on past investigations and projects that define the school's strengths. During the first two years of Div. 2 students will do work in each area; during the second two years they will develop increasing autonomy and specialization in one declared pathway, including an internship. Also under discussion are teachers' roles, a suitable variety of available projects, and educational partners (e.g. a non-profit aquaponic farm and a composites enterprise in Brunswick).

Plans are underway to add some divisions and design to the large space at Div. 2-3 where bike shop is.

XI. Other

Sharon raised a question about scholarships for ongoing education. Who handles that for the school? Can the Board help by fundraising? Kaitlyn Pulju and Maria Russell gather that information. Nancy is aware of a number of available scholarships.

Carrie raised the topic of replicating our school model elsewhere in Maine. Lewiston has come up as a suitable area. School leaders are in preliminary stages of considering this idea, reaching out for meetings, and looking at grant funding to help start up a Charter School.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 6:38 (motion by Cynthia, seconded by Nancy).

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Shelmerdine, Secretary