

HARPSWELL COASTAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 24, 2018

Division 2/3

Draft Minutes

Board members in attendance:

Sally Mackenzie, Chair
Ed Harris, Vice Chair
Cynthia Shelmerdine, Secretary
Nancy Andersen
David Jean, Treasurer
Alan Yuodsnukis
Sue Priest (arrived 5:30)

Administration:

Carrie Branson, Executive Director
Andrew Smaha (left 5:15)
Micah Depper (left 5:15)

Public:

Darryl Kiel (left 5:10)
Michele Keef (left 5:10)
Barbara Merson

I. Welcome and call the meeting to order

Sally called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Introductions.

II. Consent agenda

Minutes of the September meeting accepted.

III. School updates (Carrie, Micah)

Carrie's ED report covered the following topics:

Student enrollment: at 200 (76, 2 part-time / 124); we had hoped for 210. 38% at Div. 1 qualify for special services, 42% at Div. 2/3 (state average 15-16%). 45% qualify for free or reduced lunch. It seems that the part-time students may count toward subsidy though not attendance.

Language concerns: vulgar language has been escalating at Div. 2/3, addressed by discussing the issue separately with male and female students, and in last week's newsletter. Upcoming newsletter will have a piece about transgender students, safe spaces, the power of language. Consequences for misbehavior begin with restorative conference.

Cell phone policy: last board meeting followed up with conversation with Scott, Carrie.

The faculty are resistant to restoring cell phones at lunch. Students will be allowed to use their phones if they bring them to the office and use them there. Another result is discussion of starting a student council.

New Humanities teacher has been hired, 4 days per week. Experienced, including with experiential learning.

Meeting with SAD 75 will be scheduled soon.

Regional services center: We have not been invited and are not pursuing this idea right now. Not yet clear what HCA could contribute or what benefits there could be.

Lunches: no changes; SAD 75 is still supplying Div. 2/3 lunches. Much less food waste than last year.

Micah's academic update covered the following topics:

PEPG: going smoothly; teachers identify a goal, which becomes the focus of their peer review.

Portfolios: physical notebook, progress broken into tasks (Div. 1) or phases (Div. 2/3). The portfolio stays in the crew space.

Data: training for NWEA reporting; grouping data for comparison. MEA a cumbersome process, results arrive too late to be useful. MEA math data--we rank well below our surroundings, but our SpEd students performed comparably in science and only slightly less well in Math. So our overall results are driven by our high SpEd population. Better results in Math last year than previously. ELA SAT results not as strong at Div. 1, but Div. 2 actually did better than state average (85% at state expectations, vs. state average of 57%).

Pathways: organizing principle for the material studied. Online course catalog now includes Voc 10 and SMCC courses, marked with relevant pathways.

IV. Finance (Andrew)

As of Sept. 30 (end 1st quarter), profit and loss budget is on track. We realized about \$60,000 in savings. By end of year we hope to have a rolling budget of +75,000.

State hardship fund: we're close to the threshold of qualifying for the hardship money because of Special Education costs, and are working on our application.

Audit: have completed an unusually lengthy in-person piece of the audit.

V. Board matters (Sally)

Sally outlined board committee structure in answer to Barbara's question.

VI. Compiled HCA policies

The bullying policy was discussed. Maine's requirements are quite rigid.

Barbara asked why there is no restorative practices policy; one will be added.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm, after a motion by Nancy, seconded by Dave.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Shelmerdine, Secretary