



## Minutes (DRAFT)

**HCA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**4:30-6:30 pm**

**November 18, 2020**  
**Zoom**

**Present:** Cynthia Shelmerdine, Ed Harris, Nancy Andersen, Dave Jean, Peggy Muir, Alan Youdsnukis, Barbara Merson, Sally Mackenzie, HCA BOD members

Scott Barksdale, HOS; Susan Prince, Director of Student Services; Fern Desjardins and Bob Kautz, Maine Charter School Commission; Kathy Wilson, Brunswick resident

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Members introduced themselves to Susan Prince, Fern Desjardins, HCA's liaison to the MCSC, and Kathy Wilson, potential BOD member.

The consent agenda (minutes of the October 21 meeting) was accepted.

**HOS Update** Scott provided an update on the School.

- He noted that attendance is a challenge in Div 2/3 as it is across the state in high schools during COVID.
- Infinite Campus is helpful in providing students and parents information about student attendance and progress.
- The refocus on Expeditionary Learning (EL) has helped to provide clarity on learning targets and maintain emphasis on Crew and social and emotional learning.
- He is working on boosting enrollment for this year as well as next.
- Student led conferences were held last week, most on Zoom. The school hopes to continue to increase the attendance of families during the next set of conferences.
- He addressed these questions from the BOD:

1. How are social change and entrepreneurship embedded in HCA's curriculum and practices?

Scott showed videos of four staff members describing their programs and how either or both of these foci are developed in them.

(Amanda Wogaman spoke about the Civil Rights Team and the Sexuality and Gender lunches she holds. Chrstine Bachor, described the specific curriculum she teaches on change and entrepreneurship; Todd French, teaches civics, and Kaitlin Pulju is in charge of career exploration.)

Barbara encouraged Scott to be sure that the non-profit sector is also included in the experience of entrepreneurship.

2. Considering the status of COVID, how prepared is HCA for fully remote learning. Scott described the steps the school has taken to upgrade the network.

Unfortunately, the Chromebooks ordered in the summer have yet to arrive because the shipment keeps being delayed.

Both Peggy and Nancy stressed the need for the school administrators and teachers to be sure to recognize the stress on parents and to figure out ways to support them.

3. How and to what extent is restorative justice being used at HCA?

Scott explained that restorative justice is woven into the fabric of HCA. Their work with EL has helped them to think through all the practices they have so that students understand that they are doing things *with* them, rather than *to* them or *for* them. Scott described a specific incident in which restorative justice was the process for dealing with what anyone would call a discipline issue. In addition to the penalty for the actions, the students through the restorative justice process came to see the impact of their actions and took ownership of their actions so they could sincerely apologize.

- The new Student Services (Special Ed.) Director, Susan Prince, provided a report on her entry into the school. She said she is impressed with the staff and that she is bolstered by their enthusiasm for her input and trainings. The staff is, likewise, grateful for her presence and the solid support she is able to provide by being a full-time presence at the school.

### **Finance and Facilities**

David reported that our PPP loan has been forgiven. Andrew is busily submitting receipts to the DOE to receive reimbursement from COVID relief funds. The financial audit is complete, and the BOD will hear from the auditors at the January meeting.

### **Advancement**

Barbara reported that she has received the categorized donor database from Andrew. She will look at it and make recommendations for the annual fund which she expects will proceed in December. Next meeting: November 30 2 pm.

### **Executive Committee**

Cynthia noted that the BOD received the notes from the Executive Committee meeting. Cynthia reported on the Commission meeting and HCA's annual monitoring report. It was generally positive but noted two areas where the school needs improvement: enrollment and attendance.

Ed asked about marketing and suggested that more news releases be submitted to the local paper and that the teacher clips we saw tonight would be useful on the website to explain more completely what the school does.

**New Board member**

Kathy Wilson, a long time Brunswick resident, described her vast experience. She has been involved in many businesses and is presently on the Town Council. She said she is intrigued by the school and is honored to be asked to be on the Board.

On a motion by Ed, seconded by Nancy the Board voted unanimously to invite her to join us.

**Public Comment**

Fern Desjardins said she was happy to be able to join us and to be the liaison for HCA. She looked forward to being able to actually visit the school in the future. She reminded us to let others know about the good work of the school

Bob Kautz, now the interim Executive Director of the Maine Charter School Commission, said he remembered being impressed by the public outpouring of support for the concept of HCA at the hearing on the school's application to be a charter school. He remarked that the dream envisioned at the outset is being realized. He said, "we are creating a great record."

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 on a motion by Dave, seconded by Sally.