

**Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019

**Meeting Location:** Fuller Conference Room,

**Members present:** Reed Hillman, Keith Blanchette, Pamela Boisvert, Linda Denault, Louis Fazen, Richard McGrath, Dan Soucy, Jessica Miller, Jasmin Rivas

**Members absent:**

**In Attendance:** Jim Donahue, Tina Krasnecky, James Connally, Melissa Manzi (Hogan)

Order of Business:

*Public Access 1\*On docketed item*

Convene open session

1. Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2019 Meeting
2. Welcoming of New Trustee, Linda Denault
3. Governance Committee Report
  - a. Executive Director Evaluation
  - b. The Plan Moving Forward for Ongoing Evaluation of Leadership
4. Presentation by Special Education Director, Melissa Manzi

Public Access 2\*

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Quorum established.

Public Access 1

No Comments

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2019

1. Minutes were reviewed

Dr. Fazen added the correction that the Trustee, Pamela Boisvert, not Jasmin Rivas, seconded the final vote during the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Hillman entertained a motion to approve minutes with revisions.

MOTION: Mr. Blanchette made a motion for approval.

SECONDED: Mr. Soucy seconded the motion

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR
2. Welcoming of the New Trustee, Linda Denault

Mr. Hillman discussed that when Christine Tieri stepped down from the Academy Board, the Board sought a new Trustee that brought years of experience in education. He first met Ms. Denault after meeting her husband, a fellow officer of the law. Ms. Denault has decades of professional educational experience as an educator and administrator. Her previous positions held include, but are not limited to, Interim Superintendent for Monson Public schools, Superintendent for Palmer Public Schools, Curriculum Coordinator at Millbury Public Schools, and Principal at Burgess Elementary School.

Mr. Hillman added that the Academy is fortunate to have Ms. Denault on the Board.

Ms. Denault added that she is honored to have been asked to serve on the Academy Board, and is excited to help the Academy grow and thrive.

### 3. Governance Committee Report

#### a. Executive Director Evaluation

Mr. Soucy discussed that the Executive Director received high satisfaction scores. Zeroes in the evaluation indicate a blind spot, or that the Trustee is “unsure.” Overall, the Trustees are very happy with the Executive Director’s performance.

Mr. Donahue discussed addressing and focusing on the areas of concern highlighted in the evaluation. One area includes planning for growth of the Academy to include High School. Area students have limited school choice after completing Middle School. He has begun speaking with the Globe Consortium, which wants to start a Charter High School, we will be evaluating to see if the Academy and the Consortium will be a good fit in terms of values, mission, curriculum, and structure. The Charter renewal request is in 2021.

Mr. Fazen asked if the Academy is pursuing multiple options to evaluate expanding into a High School. We should not be closed to any potential opportunities.

Mr. Hillman added that he wants Mr. Donahue to explore all available options, to keep all cards on the table, as a brick and mortar High School is a significant undertaking.

Mr. Donahue stated that the Academy cannot amend its charter in the first five years of existence; the charter can then be revised in the following years.

Mr. Hillman replied that the Academy School Board will vote on any changes made to the charter. All revisions will be filtered through the Board.

Mr. Hillman entertained a motion to approve the Executive Director Evaluation.

MOTION: Mr. Blanchette made a motion for approval.

SECONDED: Ms. Boisvert seconded the motion

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

#### b. The Plan Moving Forward for Ongoing Evaluation of Leadership

Mr. Donahue discussed working with Mr. Hillman and Mr. Soucy on Executive Accountability which includes himself, Ms. DeTora, and Ms. Krasnecky. It is important to provide data points for the Academy Trustees.

Mr. Hillman added that we need to ensure that our procedures align with DESE’s requirements and expectations.

Mr. Soucy asked for volunteers to the Governance Committee.

Ms. Miller volunteered.

Mr. Hillman entertained a motion to approve adding Trustee Jessica Miller to the Governance Committee.

MOTION: Mr. McGrath made a motion for approval.

SECONDED: Ms. Rivas seconded the motion

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR

4. Presentation by Special Education Director, Melissa Manzi

Mr. Donahue introduced Dr. Manzi, who has been instrumental to the special education team at the Academy. Dr. Manzi is a special education consultant from Southbridge, who brings several years of experience to the Academy. The team noticed immediate improvement in the students now that Dr. Manzi's role has increased.

Dr. Manzi stated that she is honored to be a part of the Old Sturbridge Academy team. She has a background in physical therapy, was a Care Rehabilitation Director, worked as a Therapy Coordinator in schools with children who have developmental disabilities and social disadvantages, and has her Special Education license.

Mr. Donahue inquired why she chose to work at the Academy.

Dr. Manzi responded that she is passionate about the Academy's approach to education and its partnership with Old Sturbridge Village. In addition, the teams at both the Academy and the Village have an incredible amount of enthusiasm for their work. She has begun training Village staff about special education, to which the staff has been very receptive. This is just the first piece in a broader training effort.

Dr. Fazen added that with his background in pediatrics, he is particularly interested in having the staff work with and learn from Dr. Manzi.

Dr. Manzi stated that the Village staff was hungry to learn more as they get to know the students, that this is an ongoing relationship.

Mr. McGrath commented that Dr. Manzi is a terrific and much needed resource for the Academy, and inquired about her initial priorities.

Dr. Manzi replied that early priorities include building and strengthening relationships, and ensuring that the IEPs and paperwork is all properly organized and filed.

Ms. Denault asked about where the Academy compares to the state average in terms of students with IEPs.

Dr. Manzi replied that the Academy has approximately 17%, which is above the state average. In terms of learning profiles, several students have communicative and cognitive disorders. There are a few who have social and emotional disorders. We have a fully inclusive campus, and evaluate the IEP to insure that we can needs of the student as described in the IEP.

*Public Access 2*

Next OSA Board meeting will be March 27, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Hillman entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Ms. Rivas made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded: Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion.

Vote: ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

James A. Connally on behalf of Reed Hillman  
Secretary, OSA Board

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OSA Board