



Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School
Minutes of the Governance Committee

Approved October 28, 2021

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Time: 3:45 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference
Members present: Pamela Boisvert, Vivian Brooks, Linda Denault, Richard McGrath, Jessica Miller,
Members absent:
Staff present: Jim Donahue, Jasmin Rivas, Sarah Parks
Also present: None

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Nomination of Jennifer Melendez to Board of Trustees.....Pamela Boisvert
 - Motion: Approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the nomination of Jennifer Melendez as a Trustee for 2021-2024.
2. Approval of 2021-2022 Committee appointments.....Pamela Boisvert
 - Motion: Approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the 2020-2021 Committee appointments.
3. New/Other Business

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Jennifer Melendez resume
- 2021-2022 Trustee and Committee Slate

Ms. Boisvert called the meeting to order at 3:46 pm.

Ms. Boisvert conducted a roll call of the Committee. Quorum was established.

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

Ms. Boisvert asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

1. Nomination of Jennifer Melendez to Board of Trustees.....Pamela Boisvert

- Motion: Approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the nomination of Jennifer Melendez as a Trustee for 2021-2024.

Ms. Boisvert stated that the Committee received Ms. Melendez's resume in advance of the meeting. Ms. Boisvert noted that some members may have met her as a non-Trustee member of Finance and Academic Excellence. Ms. Melendez's resume shows excellent experience working with the community; her time as wrap-around coordinator with the Worcester Public Schools is significant. Per Ms. Boisvert, people in this position had the pulse of innumerable issues going on with children and knew the resources to bring to various situations, which was important experience of value to the OSA Strategic Plan.

Mr. Donahue said Ms. Melendez's candidacy came through Ms. Rivas (nb - when Ms Rivas was a Board member). Ms. Rivas recommended Ms. Melendez and endorsed her. Mr. Donahue agreed with Ms. Boisvert that Ms. Melendez would add terrific experience to the board in a place where it needs it.

Ms. Rivas said Ms. Melendez's experience in Worcester around hiring will be valuable as she did a lot of work around creating DEIA in that capacity for Worcester Public Schools. Ms. Rivas stated that Ms. Melendez would be an asset on the board.

Ms. Brooks said Ms. Melendez sounded terrific on paper and asked if someone on one of the Committees could speak to her experience.

Ms. Denault said she has not been active in Academic Excellence. [nb – Ms. Melendez attended the May 5, 2021 Academic Excellence meeting.]

Mr. Donahue stated that the delay in bringing her nomination forward to the Board may have resulted in some confusion about her role on the Committees. He noted that Ms. Melendez attended several meetings that Mr. Donahue attended.

Ms. Brooks asked if Mr. Hillman or Mr. McGrath met with Ms. Melendez.

Mr. Donahue answered that he does not believe that she has met with either but Ms. Melendez had a long meeting with Mr. Donahue over Zoom where they talked at length about her background, experience, interests, and the school. Per Mr. Donahue, Ms. Melendez also has some interest in starting a school herself and she spoke about the challenges of replication. Mr. Donahue agreed that the recruitment and vetting process could include meeting with the chair. Mr. Donahue said that Ms. Rivas was vice-chair when she brought Ms. Melendez forward, which was a strong endorsement.

Mr. McGrath stated that Ms. Melendez's nomination to the Board came up through Governance early in the year, but Governance delayed any appointments due to the creation of the Strategic Plan and resulting revision of Committees. Per Mr. McGrath, because Ms. Melendez has been in the pipeline for some time, he would trust in Mr. Donahue and Ms. Rivas's vetting process. Based on what he has read and heard, he would be in favor of nominating her at this time.

Mr. Donahue agreed on Ms. Brooks' point and noted that the Board has taken a variety of approaches to selecting new members over the past several years. Per Mr. Donahue, these members are generally known by someone on the Board. Mr. Donahue said going forward, there should be a clear checklist for the process. In this instance, he would prefer to move forward.

Dr. Denault said Ms. Melendez is strong in terms of community and wrap-around services. She noted that Ms. Melendez will bring different experience and qualifications than a teacher would.

Ms. Rivas said Ms. Melendez’s HR experience will be valuable to the group. She has been involved with many different community initiatives and also has experience with higher education at Quinsigamond Community College.

Ms. Boisvert stated that the Village’s recruitment and vetting process could be a model going forward. Mr. Donahue noted that the Committee may decide to add in other steps: a visit to the Academy, etc. Mr. Donahue said the most successful Trustees come in with a love for the institution.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved to approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the nomination of Jennifer Melendez as a Trustee for 2021-2024.

Second: Mr. McGrath seconded the motion.

Ms. Boisvert conducted a roll call of the Committee.

Vote:

Mr. McGrath: Yes.

Dr. Denault: Yes.

Ms. Herman: Yes.

Ms. Brooks: Abstained because has not met with candidate.

Ms. Boisvert: Yes.

Motion passed.

2. Approval of 2021-2022 Committee appointments.....Pamela Boisvert

- Motion: Approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the 2020-2021 Committee appointments.

Ms. Boisvert noted that the full Board reviewed an initial list of proposed Committee appointments when it met on September 25. The only change since that time is the addition of Ms. Miller to Governance.

Ms. Brooks asked if the Committee needed to vote on the appointments. Ms. Boisvert replied that the Committee should vote to ratify the appointments, knowing that there may be further changes over the next year.

Motion: Dr. Denault: Moved to approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees the 2020-2021 Committee appointments as presented.

Second: Ms. Miller seconded the motion.

Ms. Boisvert conducted a roll call of the Committee.

Vote: All in favor.

3. New/Other Business

There was none.

Public Access 2

Ms. Boisvert asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

Adjournment

Motion: Dr. Denault moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ms. Brooks seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.