



Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School
Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Draft

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference
Members present: Keith Blanchette, Pam Boisvert, Vivian Brooks, Linda Denault, Louis Fazen, Jim Korman, Richard McGrath
Members absent: Jennifer Melendez, Jessica Miller
Staff present: David Burris, Lisa DeTora, Jim Donahue, Melissa Hogan, Tina Krasnecky, Alex McConnon, Jasmin Rivas
Also present: None

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Approval of minutes – November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees...Richard McGrath
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees**
2. Report of the Academic Excellence Committee.....Linda Denault
 - **Vote to approve the seventh and eighth grade grading pilot**
3. Report of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee...Vivian Brooks
4. Report of the Governance Committee.....Pamela Boisvert
5. Report of the Finance Committee.....Keith Blanchette
6. Report of the Academy Culture & Community Committee.....Jessica Miller
7. Proposal of revised calendar change.....Lisa DeTora
8. Updated Covid-19 Protocols.....Jim Donahue & Lisa DeTora
9. New/other business

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Draft minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees
- YTD Performance through December 2021, Fiscal Year 2022 – July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- 2021-2022 school calendar (in English & Spanish)

Mr. McGrath called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call of the Board. Quorum was established.

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items

Mr. McGrath asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

1. *Approval of minutes – November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees*.....Richard McGrath

- **Motion: Approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

By: Mr. Blanchette made the motion.

Second: Dr. Fazen seconded the motion.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call of the Board.

Vote:

Mr. Blanchette: Approve.

Ms. Boisvert: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Dr. Fazen: Approve.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

Motion passed.

2. *Report of the Academic Excellence Committee*.....Linda Denault

Dr. Denault said the committee met on January 4, 2022 and reviewed the roles of the committee as outlined in the strategic plan. It was then sent off to Ms. Brooks to be incorporated. Per Dr. Denault, the main focus of their January meeting was to think about the middle school structure, and decided it would be best to have kindergarten through fifth grade be the elementary area and for grades sixth, seventh, and eighth to be considered as middle school students. Dr. Denault noted that fifth grade would be a transition year for the students as they prepared for middle school.

Ms. Rivas joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Dr. Denault said the reporting of grades to parents would be traditional letter grades with percentages. The detail in the report cards with the objectives and how the students are measuring up to standards that the parents and students enjoyed would still be the same.

Motion: Approve the seventh and eighth grade grading pilot.

By: Dr. Denault made the motion.

Second: Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion.

Ms. Boisvert asked how long the pilot would be for. Dr. Denault said it would be the remainder of this school year. Per Dr. Denault, Ms. DeTora has also brought this change before the Parent Advisory Council. Ms. DeTora said the Parent Advisory Council appreciated it because they want the students to easily transfer their grades from their institution to whatever institution they transfer to and wanted it to be translatable.

Roll Call:

Vote:

Mr. Blanchette: Approve.

Ms. Boisvert: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Dr. Fazen: Approve.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

Motion passed.

*3. Report of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee.....*Vivian Brooks

Ms. Brooks said the committee met on January 5, 2022 and started discussing the plan architecture ideas that Ms. Tieri, Ms. Freitas, and Mr. Donahue have been reviewing. The committee provided input, asked questions, and is waiting on the next steps to eventually present it to the Board for a vote. Ms. Brooks said it was informative and a great learning experience in terms of umbrella brands and the entities that fall under it.

Ms. Brooks reported that the committee also discussed replication and there were good discussions in terms of location, sponsorships, and recruiting in the Worcester area. The committee also reviewed the responsibilities in this area.

Ms. Brooks said the dissemination discussion revolved around the Lesley partnership that is developing which would involve 20 Masters Candidates who would be able to spend time at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV), fulfill their education requirements at a discounted rate, develop more relationships, and build a future pipeline for educators for OSV. Mr. Donahue said there will be two information sessions by Lesley through Zoom and the next step is to reach out to local sending districts.

*4. Report of the Governance Committee.....*Pamela Boisvert

Ms. Boisvert said the committee had their meeting on January 20, 2022 and they discussed the ongoing nomination process. Ms. Boisvert said the goal is to make the process thorough so appropriate candidates are moved forward, that it is not burdensome to the candidate or the nominator, and that it is communicated to everyone involved. Ms. Boisvert said the committee wants it to be informed to the OSA IDEA priority and she is looking forward to bringing a draft policy to the Board for approval.

Ms. Boisvert reported that Mr. Korman is a new Governance committee member, Ms. Melendez moved from the Finance committee to Academy Culture & Community, and Ms. Brooks and Dr. Fazen are two Finance committee members.

Ms. Boisvert said the Governance committee will have a busy spring with looking at the management contract and making sure it is in place for the first year of the new cycle.

5. *Report of the Finance Committee*.....Keith Blanchette

Mr. Blanchette said the committee met on January 19, 2022 to discuss the 6-month numbers. OSA is about \$31,000 ahead of budget on the income side and is projecting to be on budget for June. The overall health of OSA is in a strong cash and equity position and DESE is pleased with the level it is at.

6. *Report of the Academy Culture & Community Committee*.....Jessica Miller

Dr. Fazen reported for Ms. Miller who was absent. Per Dr. Fazen, Ms. Rivas proposed a draft DEIA plan and Dr. Hogan talked about inclusion of all different types of people with disabilities. Dr. Fazen reported that parents can opt-out of certain health programs at OSA based on their own personal approaches to sexuality and gender issues.

Ms. Rivas explained that under the Massachusetts Frameworks, Massachusetts is an opt-out state for health programming and that OSA will create a letter for the parents which they would need to sign/return to opt-out of the program. Mr. Donahue suggested tracking the forms OSA knows where every parents stands on it.

Mr. McGrath asked if this curriculum will have to be approved by the Academic Excellence committee/the Board. Mr. Donahue said they should be informed. Per Mr. Donahue, OSA is using pre-approved materials aligned with the Massachusetts Frameworks and DESE is expecting that OSA will provide health education to families where students can opt-out if they wish.

Ms. Rivas said in the DEIA goals/objectives, part of the goals are already a curriculum that OSA is using which has already been vetted and are evidence based. Ms. Rivas said in the plan, she is looking at supplemental pieces that those curriculums are suggesting. Ms. Rivas is pulling material, reviewing it, and recommending it to the teachers. Ms. DeTora suggesting revisiting this to make a determination that this is the best curriculum for OSA.

Ms. Brooks asked if the Board would have input on the DEIA plan. Mr. Donahue confirmed and said the draft plan was only presented to committee yesterday so right now it needs more feedback/input before it goes to the Board. Mr. Donahue said many aspects that OSA is doing in its curriculum are items that have been taught for years and the most experimental item is the Learning Through Experiences (LTE).

David Burris joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Mr. Donahue thanked everyone who was involved with the OSA renewal and expressed his gratitude for the team.

Ms. Rivas also noted one more important topic which was the concern around Critical Race Theory and said it is not taught to the students. Ms. Rivas emphasized the importance in how words and information is presented at meetings.

7. *Proposal of revised calendar change*.....Lisa DeTora

Ms. DeTora said OSA needed to start winter break early because of the rise in COVID-19 cases, the variant, and staffing. Ms. DeTora said OSA ended the 2021 school year two days early and needs to make up those two days. Ms. DeTora explained that OSA would take the January/March full days of professional development and turn them into early release days for the students and still provide professional development days for the teachers.

Vote: Amend the revised calendar changes for 2021 – 2022.

Ms. Boisvert: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Dr. Fazen: Approve.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

(Mr. Blanchette left the meeting and was absent for the vote.)

Motion passed.

8. *Updated Covid-19 Protocols*.....Lisa DeTora

Mr. Donahue said DESE came out with new protocols and the OSA masking policy remains in place after January 31, 2022. Per Mr. Donahue, OSA was doing a “Test and Stay” program at OSA but the new protocol says that the only time students need to be tested is if they are symptomatic. If the student tests positive, they will be sent home. OSA is no longer tracking close contacts and is no longer doing the “Test and Stay” program. Mr. Donahue said to relieve stress, DESE will provide every family who opts-in a weekly at home test for the student which is also available to any staff member who works with the students of the school.

Ms. DeTora said staff have been putting endless hours into doing contact tracing and this will also allow them to focus on big priority issues.

Dr. Fazen asked if the local Board of Health was notified. Mr. Donahue said he and Ms. DeTora just received an email from Ken Lacey of the Town who will take it to the Board of Health.

9. *New/other business*

Ms. Boisvert said the DEIA training that the three Boards participated in was very impactful and it was a great way to bring everyone together for an important topic.

Mr. Donahue said he heard some feedback from other participants and said to let him know there are any other ideas so they can incorporate it into the next training.

Public Access 2

Mr. McGrath asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. McGrath asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Dr. Fazen moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ms. Brooks seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor.

Mr. McGrath adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.