



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

Draft

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference
Members present: Keith Blanchette, Vivian Brooks, Linda Denault, Jim Korman, Richard McGrath, Jessica Miller
Members absent: Pam Boisvert, Louis Fazen, Jennifer Melendez
Staff present: Lisa DeTora, Jim Donahue, Melissa Hogan, Tina Krasnecky, Alex McConnon, Jasmin Rivas
Also present: Sarah Risotti

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Approval of minutes – January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.....Richard McGrath
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees**
2. Report of the Finance Committee.....Keith Blanchette
3. Report of the Governance Committee.....Pam Boisvert
4. Adoption of Policy for Optional Masking.....Lisa DeTora
 - **Recommendation: To make optional masking for staff and students once the mandate has been lifted**
5. Report of the Executive Director.....Jim Donahue
 1. Decision on amendment application and next steps
 2. New building update
6. Executive Session: Per M.G.L.c.30A, Sec. 21; (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:Richard McGrath
7. Return to Open Session.....Richard McGrath
8. New/other business

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Draft minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees
- OSA FY2022 January Financials

Mr. McGrath called the meeting to order at 4:03p.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 – January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees*.....Richard McGrath

- **Motion: Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

By: Mr. Blanchette made the motion.

Second: Dr. Denault seconded the motion.

Ms. Rivas said at the end of section 6, someone made a comment about critical race theory that she answered and suggested that the comment be put in the minutes.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call of the Board.

Vote:

Mr. Blanchette: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

Ms. Miller: Approve.

(Ms. Boisvert, Dr. Fazen, and Ms. Melendez ABSENT)

Motion passed.

2. *Adoption of Policy for Optional Masking*.....Lisa DeTora

Mr. Donahue said the Massachusetts state masking mandate will be lifted on Monday, February 28, 2022 and recommended that Old Sturbridge Academy (OSA) should move to an optional masking policy for students and staff.

Ms. DeTora joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Per Mr. Donahue, COVID-19 cases dropped significantly and he and Ms. DeTora feel it is prudent to be consistent with the Tantasqua school district.

Ms. Risotti joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Motion: Accept the new masking policy for the staff and students once the mandate has been lifted which is February 28, 2022 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By: Ms. Brooks made the motion.

Second: Dr. Denault seconded the motion.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call of the Board.

Vote:

Mr. Blanchette: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

Ms. Miller: Approve.

(Ms. Boisvert, Dr. Fazen, and Ms. Melendez ABSENT)

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

Mr. Blanchette said at their last meeting, the committee looked at FY2023, went through salary averages/surveys to get an understanding of where OSA should be with other charter schools, and went through the financial results which was sent to the Board.

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

Mr. McGrath said Ms. Boisvert sent an update that the Governance committee is working on the nomination process for Board and committee members and she hopes to wrap it up at the meeting on March 10, 2022. The Governance committee is also reviewing the management contract for renewal for the next five year cycle.

5. *Report of the Executive Director*.....Jim Donahue

Mr. Donahue updated the Board with the decision on the amendment request in which the Commissioner did not make a recommendation to approve. Mr. Donahue and Ms. DeTora met with DESE to discuss and have another meeting scheduled for February 28, 2022.

Ms. Donahue updated the Board of the essence of their decision which had a primary reason and secondary reasons. The primary reason for non-approval was that the Commissioner did not feel there was enough student achievement data/patterns. Mr. Donahue said OSA opened in the 2017/2018 year. There was MCAS from 2018 but because of it being the first year, the results do not count in performance. COVID-19 hit in 2020 and there was no MCAS. There was a modified MCAS in 2021. In the absence of MCAS data in spring 2020 to spring 2021, OSA has not proven itself based on the data. Mr. Donahue said part of his conversation with DESE on Monday will be a discussion on if OSA can produce data from inside the school that would compensate for the absence of MCAS data. If so, then OSA will reapply.

Dr. Denault asked if DESE set a benchmark of data. Mr. Donahue said no and that he hopes to get a better sense of academic achievement and other data that would be of value of them.

Mr. McGrath asked what DESE used before MCAS data. Mr. Donahue said DESE granted OSA an unconditional renewal of the charter without five years of MCAS data but the challenge is because OSA’s target area is Southbridge.

Ms. Brooks asked if qualitative data could be provided to make a difference. Mr. Donahue said it is worth considering and if DESE will approve without MCAS data, management’s job is to go through the charter and try to develop internal data from the past few years that can map to the charter.

Mr. Donahue suggested in investing in a data analyst for OSA to help the Board and staff. The Board confirmed. Ms. Rivas said it will also help in the DEIA area in relation to the strategic plan.

Mr. Donahue said he is also working with the architect on the feasibility for the construction of a new building. Per Mr. Donahue, when a brick and mortar is constructed, it has to work for both of the organizations involved. Currently, the team is trying to determine the capacity of building. The architects will be ready to present options and give an aerial look at the village to both the OSA Board and OSV Board before the end of March. The management team will bring two options with them and a recommendation on one of them.

6. *Executive Session: Per M.G.L.c.30A, Sec. 21; (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares:*.....Richard McGrath

The Board went into Executive Session.

7. *Return to Open Session*.....Richard McGrath

The Board returned from Executive Session.

8. *New/other business*

There was none.

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: Ms. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Dr. Denault seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor.

OSACPS Board of Trustees minutes – 2/23/2022

Mr. McGrath adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.