



**Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School
Minutes of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee**

Draft

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference
Members present: Vivian Brooks, Louis Fazen, James Korman
Members absent: Keith Blanchette
In attendance: Lisa DeTora, Jim Donahue, Christine Freitas, Alex McConnon, Jasmin Rivas,
Also present: None

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee.....Vivian Brooks
2. Brand Development Update.....Chris Tieri
3. Worcester outreach.....Jasmin Rivas & Jim Donahue
4. New/other business..... Vivian Brooks

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Draft minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee

Ms. Brooks called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

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

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items

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

1. *Approval of the minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee*

Ms. Brooks asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Dr. Fazen moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022 meeting of the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee.

Second: Mr. Korman seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Mr. Blanchette absent)

2. *Brand Development Update*

Ms. Freitas shared her screen of a rough draft of a story collection form for staff, students, parents, and board members to identify their experiences at Old Sturbridge Academy (OSA). Ms. Freitas explained that the goal is to bring message telling to the surface as the communication department develops the brand story.

Dr. Fazen suggested including a question about life changing experiences on the form.

Ms. Brooks suggested putting a book together to market OSA as “A Day in the Life of Old Sturbridge Academy” that could be a fundraiser or giveaway as part of a package, etc.

3. *Worcester outreach*

Mr. Donahue said Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) received funding from a donor in Worcester who is interested in seeing the academy replicated with the OSA Sturbridge location. This funder made a grant to OSV that allowed OSV to lease a building in Worcester. This is a one-year lease which is timed when DESE would approve the second charter school to turn over to OSA. Mr. Donahue described the building and said he plans to do community outreach and offer programs to give the prospective parents a site and visual this year. Diocese also owns the building across the street which is another potential site for future use. Per Mr. Donahue, DESE is on board but had a question about how the Worcester school benefits from the existence of the Sturbridge school and vice versa.

Mr. Donahue asked the committee what elements of governance or their role as board members is essential to replicate in the new school and what they wished OSA did five years ago that could help with the launch of the second school.

Dr. Fazen emphasized the importance in having confidence in OSA’s people, programming, and demonstrated outcomes. Mr. Korman suggested inclusion and bringing in a diverse student body. Mr. Korman noted that all board of trustee memberships seem to have a bit of disconnect since they are not boots-on-the-ground roles. Ms. Rivas suggested more orientation for prospective board members and agreed that there should be some connection to this board.

Dr. Fazen said a track record needs to be developed and emphasized the importance of finding thoughtful approaches and determining who the best people are to fill the various roles.

Ms. Brooks suggested adding someone to the board who once had the anti-charter school point of view. Ms. Brooks said it may be helpful in getting a trustee with a converted perspective to speak that language to others who feel that way.

Mr. Donahue asked the committee what they would say to someone they were mentoring to be a potential board member for OSA-Worcester. Mr. Donahue asked what they would tell them they most enjoy and what they find most difficult. Ms. Brooks said she enjoys playing a role in decision making that can better the lives of the children who attend/hope to attend the charter school, and positively impact the communities it is touching. She appreciates that her opinions are valued on the board and the conversations are interactive and ongoing. Ms. Brooks said the early meeting times and difficulty in sometimes reaching quorums is frustrating.

Mr. Korman said he enjoys playing a small role in creating a healthy academy. Mr. Korman said for the negative view, he sometimes feels like information comes in small chunks for committee meetings and sometimes feels disconnected.

Dr. Fazen said he enjoys the preparation for the board meetings and how it is presented with upbeat information and the negative is that these pieces do not always fit together smoothly. Dr. Fazen said board members need to have faith that staff will report back to the committees. Dr. Fazen suggested seeing the videos of the fifth grade passages to comment on to be more involved.

Mr. Donahue asked if sending out a report with information from all of the institutions is a helpful tool. The committee agreed that these were useful reports. Dr. Fazen asked if Mr. Donahue was getting comments back and Mr. Donahue said he could create more dialog about responding with comments.

Discussion ensued about the Worcester lease with the Diocese. Mr. Donahue said the Worcester building lease runs until March 31, 2023 and after that, it would be reevaluated.

Mr. Korman suggested that when OSA potentially rents from OSV, there could be clarification on the lease from both sides so controversy does not erupt. Mr. Donahue agreed and said he showed the Diocese the curriculum so they would know what was taught. The Diocese also does not want to see banners in direct conflict with the teachings of the church.

Mr. Donahue asked the committee to think of suggestions on an organization, company, person, or institution in the Worcester area that he should visit to get involved. Dr. Fazen suggested Dr. Dale McGee in the school board of Shrewsbury. Mr. Korman suggested the retired justice Louie Perez of the Judicial Court system. Mr. Donahue asked the committee to let him know of any other possible prospective board members.

4. New/Other Business

There was none.

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

Motion: **Mr. Korman** moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: **Dr. Fazen** seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor. (Mr. Blanchette absent)

Ms. Brooks adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.