



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

Draft

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference
Members present: Keith Blanchette, Pam Boisvert, Vivian Brooks, Linda Denault, Jim Korman, Richard McGrath, Jessica Miller
Members absent: Louis Fazen
Staff present: Lisa DeTora, Jim Donahue, Melissa Hogan, Tina Krasnecky, Alex McConnon
Also present: None

Order of Business:

Public Access 1 on Docketed Items*

1. Approval of minutes – April 27, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.....Richard McGrath
 - **Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees**
2. Report of the Governance Committee.....Pam Boisvert
 - **Discussion and Approval of the Management Contract for July 1, 2022**
3. Report of the Academic Excellence Committee.....Linda Denault
 - **Vote to Support the Adoption of the i-Ready Math Curriculum for Kindergarten through Fifth Grades and Envisions Math for the Sixth through Eighth Grades**
4. Update on Amendment & Expansion.....Jim Donahue
5. New/other business

Public Access 2*

Adjournment

Documents and Exhibits:

- Draft minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees
- R2 Mgt Contract Summary March 2022
- R2 Amended Restated Management Services Agreement (A7634530-2x7A575)
R2_(Management Contract - AJM)

Mr. McGrath called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 – April 27, 2022 meetings of the Board of Trustees*.....Richard McGrath

- **Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees**

Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

By: Mr. Blanchette made the motion.

Second: Ms. Brooks seconded the motion.

Ms. Brooks noted that she had some minor edits to grammar. Ms. McConnon will edit the minutes as appropriate.

All in favor. (Dr. Fazen – ABSENT, Ms. Boisvert – ABSTAINED)

Motion passed.

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

Ms. Boisvert said the Governance Committee had an extensive review of the management contract with Ms. Krasnecky at their February meeting. The management contract went to legal counsel for tweaking/vetting and what the Board received is the revised/updated version.

Ms. Krasnecky reviewed the renewal summary with the Board. Ms. Boisvert said the Governance Committee recommended that this be adopted by the full Board.

Motion: Approve the Management Contract for July 1, 2022.

By: Mr. Blanchette made the motion.

Second: Ms. Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call vote of the Board:

Mr. Korman: Yes.

Dr. Denault: Yes.

Ms. Brooks: Yes.

Ms. Miller: Yes.

Ms. Boisvert: Yes.

Mr. Blanchette: Yes.

All in favor. (Dr. Fazen – ABSENT)

Motion passed.

Ms. Boisvert said two evaluations were sent out by Ms. Brooks and asked everyone to participate so the Board can reach 100% participation. Ms. Boisvert noted that there were a few changes from last year such as including more DEIA language and less reference to COVID-19 but to unanticipated events. Per Ms. Boisvert, the management contract evaluation will go out later.

Ms. Boisvert said the Governance Committee is looking for Board nominations and to use the new Trustee Prospect Form if anyone has a nomination in mind. Ms. Boisvert, Mr. McGrath, and Mr. Donahue are meeting on Friday to discuss the prospects they have received to date.

Ms. Boisvert said it would be helpful to get involvement on the Board for the new Worcester school prior to the submission on the application in August. Mr. Donahue said he and Ms. Boisvert will meet with the leadership on some of the cultural institutions in the area. Mr. Donahue said to let him and Ms. Boisvert if there are connections in Worcester who might have interest in the school.

Dr. Denault asked if the prospect knows they are being nominated. Ms. Boisvert said No. Per Ms. Boisvert, the purpose of the Prospect Form is to be sensitive to the person they are thinking of in case a nomination does not go anywhere.

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

Dr. Denault said the Academic Excellence Committee met on May 3, 2022. The focus of the meeting was to hear the recommendation on strengthening the math program which was lead by Steve O’Neil and Lisa De’Tora. They explained the four math programs that were piloted at the school and the Committee looked at i-Ready, Bridges, Savvas Envision, and Illustrative. Staff recommended i-Ready and Envisions. Dr. Denault described the two curriculums which are both DESE approved. The professional development that the teachers will be doing will be preparation for this material and the beginning of the WPI partnership.

Motion: Vote to Support the adoption of the i-Ready math curriculum for kindergarten through fifth grades and Envisions math for the sixth through eighth grades.

By: Ms. Boisvert made the motion.

Second: Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion.

Mr. McGrath conducted a roll call vote.

Mr. Korman: Approve.

Dr. Denault: Approve.

Ms. Brooks: Approve.

Ms. Miller: Approve.

Ms. Boisvert: Approve.

Mr. Blanchette: Approve.

All in favor. (Dr. Fazen – ABSENT)

Motion passed.

Dr. Denault said the Committee also reviewed their progress against the strategic plan and are close to where they should be. Dr. Denault said one of the goals was to have OSA represent at a national convention and congratulated OSA for their work on Better World Day. Ms. De’Tora described the details of the event and the next steps.

4. *Update on Amendment & Expansion*.....Jim Donahue

Mr. Donahue gave an update on the security currently in place at OSA in light of the Texas school shooting that was reported last night. Per Mr. Donahue, management is in the process of expanding the camera surveillance.

Mr. Donahue made the decision to hire a full-time Safety and Security Manager who will report to him in the Executive Office. Justin Holmes is a current employee and will step up the ways to continue to protect the campus. Once Mr. Holmes is in his new role, there may be more recommendations.

Mr. Donahue said OSA is working to ensure the children of OSA are durable students who have the support they need. OSA is working to ensure it has the therapeutic resources for students who are having trouble with self-regulation. OSA has partnerships with clinical providers so students can also receive support outside of the school. Student support is an area that management is focusing on for in the school.

Mr. Donahue ran through the revised thinking on the staff side of the amendment. The concern with the request was that there was a lack of three years on consecutive MCAS data. Because of challenges with COVID-19, OSA does not have that but is trying to build an alternate data narrative for them that uses math testing, i-ready, other assessments and to tell a data story about student achievement in OSA. DESE wants OSA to focus on math. Mr. O'Neil and Ms. DeTora have been charged to write an in-depth math narrative which Mr. Donahue will send it to DESE before submitting the amendment. Mr. Donahue will have another meeting with them to get their read on what is producing will be adequate.

Mr. Donahue said the second concern is the enrollment plan which was originally proposed as a T shaped plan. DESE were concerned that adding so many new students to the middle/high would disrupt the school culture piece. The second Concern was for the ninth grade. DESE did not see in the amendment request evidence that there would be a demand for additional seats in the ninth grade in the way they saw demand in the lower grades. Mr. Donahue went back to them with a different enrollment plan which adds 20 students per grade for kindergarten through eighth to go from 40 to 60 students, and then 60 students per grade for grades nine through twelve.

Mr. Donahue said there is now a proposed rectangular enrollment plan. DESE felt having 60 students per grade in high school would give the chance to build the high school program. The next step is to propose to them (in addition to the math curriculum) a growth plan to add the students in. Mr. Donahue will put this together and present it to them with the curriculum pieces as well.

Mr. Donahue discussed school support partners and identifying a high education EL school that would contract with a mentor of OSA. A school called Capital Cities School in Washington D.C. was recommended and Mr. Donahue will see if he can partner with them. There is also a school in western Massachusetts called Four Rivers, for support. Mr. Donahue said in June, he will have a meeting with DESE to work with them to get the amendment complete.

Mr. Donahue said there are plenty of seats in Worcester. Mr. Donahue suggested using Sturbridge's experience developing grades nine through twelve and ask for an amendment/apply it to Worcester when it is ready. Mr. Donahue also has to figure out who the proven provider is for Worcester. Mr. Donahue said it was recommended that OSV should apply as a proven provider and he and Ms. DeTora should apply as individuals as well.

Mr. Donahue also wants a mentoring relationship with other school, which we would also be established with Worcester and is having a conversation with a previous principal who will meet with him next week. Mr. Donahue hopes to build strong leadership at both sites.

Mr. Donahue gave an update that the school cannot have the name “Old Sturbridge” in front of it, as the management organization cannot be the name of school. The team is thinking of possible names. Ms. Brooks said the naming of the school could be a good challenge for the Institutional Distinction, Dissemination, & Replication Committee.

Mr. Donahue said the next step is for him and Ms. DeTora to begin work on the application so it will be ready to be submitted in August. Mr. Donahue said the amendment and the second application will have two different cycles and he will not know about the second school until February.

Dr. Denault asked if the Worcester public schools know that these charters are out. Mr. Donahue said he and Ms. Rivas have been having conversations about Worcester in informal conversations and have received positive feedback from the people they are talking to. Per Mr. Donahue, there will be an unavoidable political opposition that will happen but he is hoping that partnerships with cultural organizations will help.

5. 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: Mr. Blanchette moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ms. Boisvert seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor. (Dr. Fazen – ABSENT)

Mr. McGrath adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.