

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Board Meeting — Oct 8, 2020

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Gio Bosco (Board President) called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance (all virtually) were the following:

Trustees: Gio Bosco, Harry Kinne, Dana Grossman, Donna Steinberg, Karl Furstenberg, Shannon Darrah, Marisa Donovan, Ann Bumpus, Lindsey Klecan, John Ziegler, Robin Junker, Melody Burkins

Absent: Mary Dan Pomeroy

Employees: Carrie Brennan (Head of School), Joe Deffner (Teacher, joined at 7:10 p.m.)

Members of the public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk), Tippi Oshoniyi

1. Welcome & President's Report

Gio welcomed all to the October meeting and gratefully acknowledged the hard work of faculty & staff here at week four.

2. Public Comment

Lindsey as public: Willem Lange's description of TA in the *Valley News* on Sept. 30 was an extraordinary encomium.

Dana encouraged someone to write a thank-you note to Mr. Lange.

3. Consent Agenda

The Merrill Lynch documents were removed from the Consent Agenda – to be considered separately later in the meeting.

There were no other comments.

- Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2020 Board of Trustees regular meeting
- Delete a policy “From Linda’s Desk” (meaning it is not online) titled Hiring of Athletic Coaches (formerly labeled D14).
- Declaration:

In line with promoting Thetford Academy's anti-racist commitment, and for the purpose of forging strategic partnerships, the Board of Trustees encourages Thetford Academy to be an active supporter of anti-racist groups and businesses.

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved: Ann Bumpus

Seconded: John Ziegler

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Head of School Report

Carrie shared her screen and gave a slide presentation (Head of School report Oct. 8, 2020, archived separately).

She included excerpts of a letter from a parent praising Blendon's tireless efforts in athletics over the summer and throughout this year's chaos.

5. Anti-Racism Task Force Update

Donna introduced Theresa Hernandez who works at OPAL (Office of Pluralism and Leadership) at Dartmouth and now joins us as consultant.

Theresa introduced herself and described her background.

Theresa shared her screen and gave a presentation about the proposed structure and path of the ARTF.

Donna added that she has 7 applicants already and expects a few more.

Dana expressed hope that all members of the ARTF will be members of the TA community or of the towns it serves.

Marisa asked about whether there will be remuneration for ARTF members. No decision yet, maybe credit for a student.

Harry asked and Donna answered that the task-force timing is fluid, hoping for creation of recommendations within several months.

6. Private-Pay Student (PPS) Report

Karl offered overview of standing with PPSs.

Several committees have been having discussions, and Karl suggested moving forward with marketing to prospective PPSs in a more deliberate way.

A lengthy and involved discussion ensued about potential complexities of marketing to PPSs. After ½ hour, Karl summarized that we will work on modifying the marketing process to actively promote the PPS option – cognizant that details will need to be worked out.

7. Town Reports

Lyme, NH

Re-opening in Lyme is going OK, but everyone is overworked & stressed.

There is concern about how to handle the holidays. NH says quarantine 14 days after traveling out of state.

Covid is costing money, there will be big expenses, but hopefully they won't interfere with long-standing priorities.

Thetford, VT

There are water issues: The well went dry, pump shut off, will need attention.

Budget discussion will start soon.

Pupil numbers look like they're going down.

8. Committee Reports

Board Management

Ann:

Thanks to those who wrote bios. For those who haven't yet, please do so.

She needs Trustee Affirmations from everyone to be signed and returned.

Donna:

BMC feels that the number of persons on the Board is a bit low.

The committee is beginning recruiting with very specific needs in mind.

Personnel

Harry:

The 3-year faculty contract has been ratified & signed.

Contract to staff is out for review -- expect quick finalization & signature.

Resources

John:

There are two documents from Merrill Lynch: (1) authorize accounts to be transferred and (2) authorize signers to sign.

Motion: Adopt the two documents that John circulated with the provision to add required signature of Treasurer for amounts of \$100k or more.

Moved: Lindsey Klecan

Seconded: Dana Grossman

The motion passed unanimously.

John also presented the following:

- a summary of 4th-quarter financials,
- a summary of enrollment numbers, and
- a summary of the endowment's value over the past fiscal year.

Advancement

Karl discussed the emphases of last year's fundraising and a few tweaks for this year.

Wendy Cole is retiring on Nov. 1 after many years of service to TA.

9. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

John: Resources will be working on tuition planning – which will involve a rough draft budget so that tuition can be announced in January. Expect to discuss that in November.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Moved: Donna Steinberg

Seconded: Dana Grossman

The motion passed unanimously.

Recorded by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey Klecan (Clerk)