

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Board Meeting — April 8, 2021

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Gio Bosco (Board President) called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance (all virtually) were:

Trustees: Gio Bosco, Dana Grossman, Donna Steinberg, John Ziegler, Karl Furstenberg, Ann Bumpus, Robin Junker, Lindsey Klecan, Melody Burkins, Shannon Darrah, Katie Saunders, Mary Dan Pomeroy, Harry Kinne (joined at 7:49 p.m.)

Absent: Marisa Donovan

Employees: Carrie Brennan (Head of School)

Members of the public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

1. Welcome & President's Report (Gio)

Gio welcomed everyone and announced that the June board meeting will be on June 3, the first Thursday rather than the usual second Thursday date, to avoid having a meeting the night before graduation. Gio also mentioned a few points he had been struck by while serving as a member of the board's Anti-Racism Task Force—including that only 17 of the 50 states require schools to teach anything about the Holocaust (and Vermont isn't one of them) and that the New Hampshire House recently passed a bill banning the teaching of anything about systemic racism.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consent Agenda

Meeting Minutes from the March 11, 2021, BOT meeting.

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda.

Moved: Indeterminate

Seconded: Indeterminate

In Favor: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2 (Katie and Shannon)

Vote: The consent agenda passed unanimously, save for the abstentions.

4. Head of School Report (Carrie)

Carrie reported that the plan is to stay the course with the current structure of the curricular program for the fourth quarter, so that the administration and faculty can focus on expanding extracurricular activities (such as drama and robotics) rather than making changes in the class structure at this stage of the year. She said the plan is to return to a full, normal schedule in the fall. She also reported that TA will run a summer program this summer. (Her report slides are archived separately.)

5. New Business

None.

6. Town Reports

a. Thetford, VT (Shannon)

TES has hired a new principal, Bernice Mills, who will start July 1.

Harry Kinne joined the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

b. Lyme, NH (Karl)

Lyme has a newly elected school board.

7. Committee & Task Force Reports

a. Resources (John)

The committee will meet on April 17 to complete the budget for the May board meeting. On March 31, the members of the committee walked the Godfrey land—33.5 acres in five parcels. A walk is planned for end of April of the main campus property.

b. Board Management (Donna)

Ann and Melody will be stepping off the board when their terms are up in June. The committee has recruited two new trustees and will have materials about them for the May meeting. Jessica Tidman from Strafford has decided not to join the board, so we continue to seek a Strafford representative; also, Lindsey recently drafted a new Strafford partnership agreement. The committee will also be planning a board retreat soon.

c. Personnel (Harry)

The committee has started meeting with the faculty representatives to review the contract language and structure, well in advance of the conclusion of the 2020-2023 contract period, so that that part of the negotiation process can be separated from the financial part.

d. Advancement (Karl)

Admissions for 2021-22 looks positive at this point. Fund-raising is tracking close to last year. Karl stressed that the goal is for 100% participation from the board in giving to the annual fund.

Mary Dan left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

e. Anti-Racism Task Force

Donna gave a presentation reporting on the results of the committee's survey of faculty and staff, of students and recent alumni, and of community members and others (such as less recent alumni). (Her report slides are archived separately.) The committee plans to hold some community forums soon, but the dates haven't been set yet.

8. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

None.

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: John

Seconded: Indeterminate

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.

Drafted by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk).

Respectfully submitted by Dana Grossman (Clerk).