

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Board Meeting — May 13, 2021

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, Dana Grossman, Donna Steinberg, John Ziegler, Karl Furstenberg, Robin Junker, Lindsey Klecan, Melody Burkins, Shannon Darrah, Katie Saunders, Harry Kinne, Marisa Donovan

Absent: Ann Bumpus, Mary Dan Pomeroy

Trustee candidates: Paul Mutone, Samuel Perry, Cara Ray, Sarah Adams

Employees: Carrie Brennan (Head of School), Linda Lanteigne Magoon (CFO), Susan Essex-Luce (International Student Program Coordinator and ELL Teacher),

Members of the public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

1. Welcome & President's Report

Gio initiated a round of introductions.

2. Public Comment

Gio and Donna opened the floor for questions from and to the trustee candidates.

- Cara asked what tasks are on the board's horizon.
- Paul asked if and how the endowment has historically been used.
- Sam asked how the international student program is faring.

Carrie and several trustees answered these questions and offered additional thoughts. After this discussion, the prospective trustees left the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Meeting minutes from the April 8, 2021, BOT regular meeting
Lindsey noted that the names of a few board members who made or seconded motions were missing; these will be filled in using the recording of the April meeting.
- b. Minor edits to the policy on Professional Licensure [B42]

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda with the above-noted edits to the minutes.

Moved: John Ziegler

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Head of School Report

Carrie showed a few slides about the International Student Program (ISP), and Susan spoke about her recruitment efforts.

- Susan said she's trying to attract ISP students from a wider range of countries. She added that in 2021-22, in addition to several ISP students, TA will have two students from Italy through AFS.

AFS is only a one-year program, and those students come on a different visa than the ISP students. She added that TA does not get tuition from the AFS students (though the students pay a fee to AFS to participate), but they add to the student diversity. Susan also reported that TA is now approved to offer a PG year for international students.

Carrie showed her slides on other topics. (Her entire slide show is archived separately.)

- Karl asked how we'll approach vaccines for next year. Carrie responded that right now TA is continuing a promotion-of-information role while waiting to see what state guidance comes out.
- Robin volunteered to help plan the board retreat.

5. New Business / Action Items

- a. New trustee candidates (Cara Ray, Sam Perry, Paul Mutone, Sarah Adams, Sheilagh Smith)
- Donna explained that BMC (which serves as the Nominating Committee) has a matrix that helps define the board's needs, and by the time prospective candidates are presented to the board they've been pretty well vetted.
 - She explained that Sarah Adams would become the town representative from Strafford, in anticipation of a partnership agreement being signed between TA and the Strafford School Board.
 - Dana asked whether the board should go into executive session for the discussion, and both Shannon and Linda confirmed that that's how it's been done in the past.

Motion: Move into executive session to discuss the board candidates.

Moved: Dana Grossman

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:06 p.m., the board went into executive session, and recording was suspended.

The board came out of executive session at 8:23 p.m., and recording was resumed.

- Gio used an online poll to solicit votes on the five candidates. All five candidates were approved unanimously. Donna said that she would notify each of them the next morning.

- b. Budget presentation.

John presented a spreadsheet comparing the proposed budget for next year to this year's budget and projections.

Motion: Approve the FY 2022 budget proposal.

Moved: Lindsey Klecan

Seconded: Dana Grossman

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Scholarship assistance proposal

Karl said that after the many years of thinking and discussion, he feels that we have a viable scholarship assistance proposal. Karl outlined the thinking behind the draft of the proposed scholarship assistance program.

He emphasized that the primary consideration in awarding scholarship assistance will be financial need. Several trustees asked questions or offered suggestions about the funding and description of this new program.

Motion: Approve the scholarship assistance proposal with minor edits.

Moved: Karl Furstenberg

Seconded: Donna Steinberg

The motion passed unanimously.

Katie Saunders left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

6. Town Reports

a. Thetford

Shannon reported that they will renovate the boys' bathroom at TES over the summer. The town was recently chosen to take part in a feasibility study of electric buses. They are also considering expanding the solar array adjacent to TES.

- John asked whether TA might be able to buy into the solar array; Shannon said she would look into the possibility.

Shannon added that they may get some federal COVID relief money but are unsure.

b. Lyme

Karl reported that TA and Lyme are in the final stages of renewing the Lyme-TA partnership agreement. Carrie added that they're hoping to bring it to the June meeting for approval.

7. Committee & Task Force Reports

a. Resources

John reported that Merrill Lynch has confirmed that we are now fully invested.

b. Board Management

Donna reported that BMC is planning for the board retreat, and she asked for another volunteer to help plan it. BMC is also getting a faculty survey together for the head of school's review.

- Karl asked how committee assignments for new trustees will be handled. Donna said that BMC will consult with the committee chairs.

c. Personnel

Harry reported that the Personnel Committee is continuing to work with the faculty representatives to review and edit the entire contract for clarity and organization.

d. Advancement

Karl reported that TA's Day of Giving is May 25. Trustees will be asked to contribute short videos about the core values of TA.

e. Anti-Racism Task Force

Donna reported that the task force had conducted two forums in recent weeks, which went well.

The task force will be working on recommendations to bring to the board. She welcomed suggestions from trustees.

8. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Gio closed by mentioning that Melody and Ann will be rotating off the board upon the conclusion of their terms. He expressed deep appreciation for all that they both contributed and said how much he'd enjoyed working with them.

Dana asked about getting back to meeting in person, perhaps starting in June. Gio wondered whether we have the technology ready yet to permit remote attendance by some of the new trustees; he also noted that we'd need to think about how to accommodate social distancing at an in-person meeting open to the public. Carrie said that June 3 might be too early but that the technology is ready.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: John Ziegler

Seconded: Karl Furstenberg

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Drafted by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

Respectfully submitted by Dana Grossman (Clerk)