

## THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Board Meeting — June 3, 2021

Via Zoom

### MINUTES

Gio Bosco (Board President) called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance (all virtually) were the following:

Trustees: Gio Bosco, Dana Grossman, Donna Steinberg, Cara Ray, John Ziegler, Karl Furstenberg, Robin Junker, Lindsey Klecan, Harry Kinne, Marisa Donovan, Ann Bumpus, Sheilagh Smith, Samuel Perry, Sarah Adams, Shannon Darrah

Absent: Mary Dan Pomeroy, Paul Mutone, Katie Saunders

Employees: None

Members of the public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

#### 1. Welcome & President's Report, Gio Bosco

- Head of School Carrie Brennan is feeling unwell and will not be attending tonight.
- Gio has been in communication with the TA Alumni Association; their officers will be joining us at our September meeting.

#### 2. Public Comment

- Gio received a message from a community member who wished to remain anonymous and read it to the board. The message concerned allowing members of the community to attend TA graduation.
  - Gio had contacted Dean of Students Siobhan Lopez, who explained the guidance the health and safety committee had followed in setting the attendance guidelines and said they felt it best not to change them at this point.
  - Dana asked if the response had been communicated back to the community member and Gio replied not yet, but it would be.

#### 3. Consent Agenda

##### a. Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2021, BOT regular meeting.

Gio asked if there were any edits or corrections; there were none.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.

Moved: John

Seconded: Lindsey

Ann and Sheilagh abstained, otherwise the motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Head of School Report was skipped because Carrie was absent

#### 5. Town Reports

##### a. Thetford, VT (Shannon)

- The school board is embarking on an effort to update their policies.

- They investigated whether TA could partake in the new solar array, but TA CFO Linda Lanteigne Magoon found that TA can't be part of more than one net metering agreement simultaneously.

b. Lyme, NH (Karl)

- The Lyme-TA partnership agreement is nearly finished; they are working out some wording details.
- They are also working out one additional detail: Next year there may be more students coming to TA from Lyme than can fit on the TA van. Lyme has a policy not to use its busses to transport to choice schools, so there will need to be some solution. Carrie is working on it.

c. Strafford, VT (Sarah)

- There will be a vote this fall on whether to keep Newton K-8 or switch to K-6, with choice for the two middle-school grades. There will be at least one informational meeting shortly before the vote.
- Strafford is also looking into starting a public pre-K. There will eventually be a vote on that issue, too, after the middle school decision is made.

6. Committee & Task Force Reports

a. Resources (John)

- Nothing to report.
- There was a brief discussion of when and how the funds for the new scholarship program should be included in the budget.

b. Board Management (Donna)

- The committee sent welcome/orientation packets to the five new trustees.
- They also had official TA nametags made for all trustees appointed in the past two years, now that the campus will start to reopen. When they're on campus, trustees are asked to wear their nametags.
- Robin outlined three parts of the upcoming retreat:
  - Review of the strategic plan.
  - A discussion of the anti-racism document that the anti-racism task force is working on.
  - Visioning about the use of undeveloped campus properties.
- The annual evaluation of the Head of School eval is in progress. A survey has been sent to employees. A discussion ensued as to whether trustees' input would be sought as well, as has been the case in the past; several trustees offered to look into that process. Students will not be surveyed this year, due to pandemic restrictions.
- The annual faculty/staff appreciation lunch will be next week. Donna asked for a few volunteers to organize it. Dana, Robin, and Sheilagh offered to do so.

c. Personnel (Harry)

- The committee is continuing to meet with the faculty reps to clean up the language in the master agreement. They met in person for the first time recently—outside, under one of the TA tents—which was gratifying.

d. Advancement (Karl Furstenberg)

- The Day of Giving was successful, bringing in a bit more this year than last year.

e. Anti-Racism Task Force (Donna)

- The community forums are done; they are now creating a recommendations document. Consultant Theresa Hernandez is doing the first draft. The goal is to have it to the whole board several days before the retreat, so it can be discussed then.

7. Action Item: Conferring of Diplomas.

Motion: A state-certified high school graduation diploma be conferred on the students recommended by the faculty at their meeting next week.

Moved: Ann

Seconded: Robin

The motion passed unanimously.

Marisa left the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

8. Executive Session (to discuss a personnel matter)

Motion: To go into executive session.

Moved: Ann

Seconded: Lindsey

Into executive session at 8:04 p.m.; recording was paused.

Out of executive session at 8:28 p.m.

9. Action Item: Head of School Contract.

Motion: To approve the new three-year Head of School contract as presented, with a few minor corrections of pronouns and dates.

Moved: John

Seconded: Dana

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Gio announced that tonight the board is saying goodbye to Ann. She served on the board for eight years, including as vice president and then president. She oversaw the decision to hire Carrie two years ago. The entire board is very grateful for all her hard work over the years.

Gio also noted that there will be no July meeting; the next meeting will be in August.

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Moved: John

Seconded: Donna

ThirDED: Ann

The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Drafted by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

Respectfully submitted by Dana Grossman (Clerk)