

THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly Board Meeting — August 12, 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, Karl Furstenberg, Harry Kinne, Shannon Darrah, Lindsey Klecan, Katie Saunders, Sheilagh Smith, Paul Mutone, Cara Ray, Sarah Adams, Mary Dan Pomeroy

Absent: Robin Junker, John Ziegler, Marisa Donovan, Sam Perry

Employees: Carrie Brennan (Head of School), Joe Deffner

Members of the public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

1. Welcome & President's Report (Gio Bosco)

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consent Agenda

Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021, Regular BoT Meeting and June 30, 2021, Special BoT Meeting

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.

Moved: Karl

Seconded: Harry

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Head of School Report & Covid Response Update (Carrie Brennan)

Carrie Brennan updated the trustees on the summer program, new staff hires, and covid-mitigation plans for the fall (her slide show is archived separately). In response to questions, she noted that two private-pay families are receiving partial scholarships under the program recently established by the Board, and that the fall program will be a return to the regular, non-pod structure.

5. Town Reports

a. Thetford (Shannon Darrah)

TES will require masking for everyone due to the fact that most students are too young to be vaccinated. The annual board retreat is upcoming. The new principal started on July 1. The universal meals program is continuing this year – which means free lunches for everyone, including students at TA.

b. Lyme (Karl Furstenberg)

Principal Jeff Valence has resigned, effective immediately.

c. Strafford (Sarah Adams)

The town-wide vote on whether the middle-school grades will continue to be educated at the Newton School will take place October 5 by Australian Ballot.

6. Committee and Task Force Reposts

a. Resources (Gio Bosco)

A meeting is scheduled for September 2 with Merrill Lynch to go over the endowment and investments.

b. Board Management (Katie Saunders)

Katie is taking over as chair from Donna. There was a discussion about optimizing the time and agenda for the BoT meetings, possibly by starting earlier and/or trimming the agenda. After various opinions were expressed, Donna proposed a 6:45 p.m. starting time and a slightly trimmed agenda agenda. The proposal got thumbs up all around.

c. Personnel (Dana Grossman)

Dana is taking over as chair from Harry, and Sam has joined the committee. They are making good progress with the faculty negotiating representatives on a thorough language review of the master agreement and should soon be able to start discussing the financial aspects of the agreement.

d. Advancement (Karl Furstenberg)

The committee is working on its communication strategy in post-covid world. They have also discussed the formation of board-level development committee to address major gifts and major projects and are also working on developing alumni connections. There was also a brief discussion about possibly increasing staffing for the development effort.

e. Anti-Racism (Donna Steinberg)

Donna shared the task force's nine-page final summary and explained that the next step will be to share it with the community. She added that someone from Hanover has asked for a copy.

7. Action Item #1: Formation of a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council

The discussion about the conclusion of the Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) segued into a discussion of the group's recommendation for continuing its anti-racism (AR) work.

Motion: To accept the ARTF's recommendation to transition responsibility for TA's AR work to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, composed of TA employees, students, and other stakeholders, to guide the next phase of the school's anti-racism efforts.

Moved: Donna

Seconded: Sheilagh

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Item #2: Formation of a Barrett Property Development Task Force

There was discussion about the creation of a task force to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of development concepts for the Barrett property and their ability to meet current and future school needs, consistent with the TA Strategic Plan. Gio proposed that the task force be led by a board

member, and include Carrie as a member, and that the board member leading the effort, in concert with Carrie, would agree on the group's other members.

Motion: To form a task force to study and make recommendations on development concepts for the Barrett property to meet current and future school needs, consistent with the TA Strategic Plan.

Moved: Karl

Seconded: Dana

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Action Item #3: BoT Leadership Transition

Gio proposed a Board leadership transition for FY22, whereby he assumes the role of vice president now and Donna Steinberg assumes the role of president. Gio explained that this is the last year in his term, so it makes sense to pass the reins while he is still on the Board. Karl observed that a new vice president should be identified and tapped before Gio leaves the board, to ensure a smooth transition in that office. Gio agreed, noting that another trustee will likely be tapped as vice president by January or February.

Motion: To move Donna to the presidency and Gio to the vice presidency.

Moved: Katie

Seconded: Lindsey

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

a. Mary Dan Pomeroy has been in contact with the officers of the TA Alumni Association and has arranged for them to be on the agenda for the Board's September meeting.

b. The next meeting will be a hybrid structure, conducted from the TA library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Drafted by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

Respectfully submitted by Dana Grossman (Clerk)