

**THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Monthly Board Meeting — September 9, 2021  
Via Google Meet  
**MINUTES**

Donna Steinberg (Board President) called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m. In attendance (all virtually) were the following:

Trustees: Donna Steinberg, Gio Bosco, Dana Grossman, Paul Mutone, Karl Furstenberg, Sarah Adams, Marisa Donovan, Shannon Darrah, Harry Kinne, Lindsey Klecan, Mary Dan Pomeroy, Katie Saunders, Sam Perry, Cara Ray, John Ziegler, Robin Junker Boyce (joined at 7:18), Sheilagh Smith (joined at 7:40 p.m.)

Absent: None

Employees: Carrie Brennan (Head of School), Patty McIlvaine (Director of Advancement)

TA Alumni Association Representatives: Loretta Gray, Jessica Eaton, Roxanne Eastman

Members of the Public: Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

**1. Welcome & President's Report (Donna)**

Donna welcomed everyone and noted the sad news that CFO Linda Lanteigne Magoon's husband had died recently; she said she'd arranged to have flowers sent from the board. She also noted with gratitude how well the opening of the school year has gone, despite its being the third one affected by COVID.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Consent Agenda**

Meeting minutes from the August 12, 2021, regular board meeting. Donna asked if there were any changes; there were none.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.

Moved: Lindsey

Seconded: Gio

The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Head of School Report (Carrie)**

Carrie presented a slideshow (which is archived separately). The topics she covered included:

- The development of the Transferrable Skills initiative at TA
- Recognition of the Alumni Association as an important community partner
- Student enrollment trends
- Community Day activities
- Upcoming events

A brief discussion followed about how the Transferrable Skills initiative will fit into the curriculum and how the Transferrable Skills will be measured.

## **5. TA Alumni Association (Loretta Gray '80)**

The TAAA representatives introduced themselves to the board, and then the board members introduced themselves in turn.

Gio asked the TAAA to explain the activities it undertakes.

- Loretta explained that they raise money by running the concession stand at TA's big cross-country meets and the annual Craft Bazaar — and then give the funds to both individual student scholarships for their further education and to support various initiatives at the school (after soliciting requests from the faculty).
  - Athletics is a frequent recipient.
  - They have also supported the timber-framing class.
  - Seven \$500 scholarships each year; these are largely funded by dues.
- The TAAA also has overseen the annual holiday “memory tree” and the post-graduation parade that has been held since the advent of COVID.

Marissa asked about communication between the TAAA, the board, and the Advancement Office. As the chair of the board's newly formed Development Committee, she said she welcomes the opportunity to work with the TAAA. Loretta said that TAAA meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 and that anyone is welcome to attend.

The TAAA representatives left the meeting following their presentation.

## **6. Committee and Task Force Reports**

### **a. Resources (John)**

- Year-end numbers will be discussed at next month's board meeting.
- Last week, the committee had a meeting with Merrill Lynch, which provided details on the TA portfolio.
- The committee has arranged to have the TA-owned building lots on Godfrey Road looked at by realtors; appraisals are forthcoming.

### **b. Personnel (Dana)**

- The committee is continuing to work on a thorough language review of the faculty master agreement.
- They were recently made aware that although the staff master agreement is effective for three years (from 2020 to 2023), its salary provisions were agreed to for only the first year (2020-21), so the committee is currently in discussion with the staff representative regarding staff salary increases for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

### **c. Barrett Property (Karl)**

- The task force has not yet been formed but the process is underway. It will be chaired by Karl.
- Its charge is to consider how the Barrett property should be developed and used for the benefit of TA and the community, consistent with the Strategic Plan.

- Any trustees who are interested in serving on the task force should contact Karl or Donna.

## **7. Discussion of Committee of Chairs Meeting (Donna)**

There was a discussion about whether the monthly Committee of Chairs meeting is important/valuable or whether it could be eliminated. The consensus was that it is valuable for several reasons, so an effort will be made to find a new time that works for all the current chairs.

## **8. Town Reports**

### **a. Thetford (Shannon)**

- The school board has begun to reformulate its strategic plan committee.
- The board has changed from twice-a-month to once-a-month meetings, on the second Tuesday.
- They are working on a long-range facilities plan, so they can make effective use of the significant pandemic stimulus funding the school district received. They plan to be cautious about how the funds are spent, however, because of continuing uncertainties about school operations.

### **b. Lyme (Karl)**

- School has opened, full-time with masks.
- An interim principal is in place.
- TA administrators have been working with Lyme to provide transportation for Lyme students who attend TA.
  - Carrie mentioned that transportation is a bigger concern — not just for our Lyme students and not even just for TA — since bus companies around the region are suffering driver shortages and are thus are not able to staff usual routes.
  - Karl added that transportation to and from Lyme will be complicated by the planned work on the East Thetford-Lyme bridge, which is expected to start in the spring of 2022.

### **c. Strafford (Sarah)**

- Strafford is having busing troubles, too, and is now down to one bus covering the whole town.
- The townwide vote on whether to keep the middle school student at the Newton School is coming up. The school board is holding an informational meeting on September 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Barrett Hall.

## **9. Other Business / Future Board Meeting Agenda Items**

Marissa encouraged 100% board participation in the annual fund. She asked board members to reach out to Patty with their pledge soon, so the Advancement Office can mention the board's financial support for TA in its asks of others. Marissa said Patty would contact any trustees whom she doesn't hear from.

Motion: To adjourn.

Moved: Katie

Seconded: Gio

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Drafted by Leif LaWhite (Recording Clerk)

Respectfully submitted by Dana Grossman (Clerk)