



## Baxter Academy May Board of Directors Meeting

December 19, 2023

### Minutes

Present: Thorn Dickinson, Ruth Dean, Nik Charov, Dan Mickool, Jana Lapoint, Justin Richards, Anna Klein-Christie

1. Chair Thorn Dickinson opened the meeting in-person and on Zoom at 6:08pm.
2. **Jana Lapoint motioned to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting, Nik Charov seconded. No edits or amendments. All in favor.**
3. Review and approval of updated FY2024 Budget
  - a. Treasurer Nik Charov presented the net assets, balance sheet, and profit and loss statement through 11/30/23. The current assets-to-liabilities ratio stands at 4.51, will get closer to 1.5 as the school year continues and the summer salaries increase as a funded liability. In the process of preparing for the FY23 audit, we did discover some better ways to account for grant monies received during the FY22, FY23, and FY24; subsequent recategorization has 1) increased the **surplus** in FY22 by ~\$70k, to \$114k 2) increased the deficit in FY23 by \$114k, to \$434k. However, the current cash position is strong (days of cash on hand is greater than 21), no deficit is currently projected for this FY, and upon refinancing our loan with NFF in 2024, we stand to add ~\$200k to our cash on hand from an account restricted to that liability. We are treating FY23 as the year when the pandemic's effects were most sorely felt, where a number of grants were expended, and where a number of unfunded one-time expenses hit. Going forward, the leadership team has trimmed operating expenses and has instituted better accounting practices for the grants management effort. No formal approval is necessary, as these are intra-quarter numbers.
  - b. Nik presented a revised FY2024 budget for the Board's approval. This mid-year amendment is sought to better capture the effect of Student Services engaged after the FY24 budget was formally approved in May 2023. In particular, the addition of 6% more students than the State is reimbursing BA for creates budget pressures, particularly in contracted services and transportation. A second ASL interpreter is required this year, at a cost of \$32k. A fourth bus line is necessary to handle students from the Grey area, costing \$80k. Unwinding the previous custodial contract took longer than expected. However, many other expense lines have been reduced to absorb these additional costs; we will also see savings from temporarily unfilled staff positions, better than expected fundraising, and lower than expected health insurance costs. The detailed budget is attached, along with a presentation. The bottom line numbers: an increase in the FY24 operating budget from \$4.694m to \$4.762m, with a continued balanced budget. Budget projections for FY25 and FY26 are also included in the materials, to show the effects of



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the growing enrollment and projected future surpluses. Nik commended the BA leadership team for securing additional revenues and making the necessary cuts to the original budget. **Thorn Dickinson motioned to approve the revised FY2024 budget as presented, Jana Lapoint seconded. Approved unanimously.**

4. Public comment: No comments were received.
  
5. **Thorn Dickinson motioned to adjourn at 7:05pm, Ruth Dean seconded. All in favor.**