

## Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

### Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 2020

**ZOOM LINK:** <https://baxter-academy-org.zoom.us/j/85791106337?pwd=anZuSHNqeTBaV3N1a3pWdmhvZVlvUT09>

Present: Board Chair Patti Oldmixon, Treasurer Peter Montano, Thorn Dickinson, Nik Charov

Absent: Vice Chair Christian Sparling

Guests: Executive Director Kelli Pryor, School Physician Dr. Charles de Sieyes, Interim Head of School Cicy Po, Assistant Principal Mary King, Director of Special Education Laura Parks

#### Agenda item

##### I. Opening Items

###### A. Update on Care Packages

Executive Director Kelli Pryor shared a timelapse video of the effort to pack and distribute care packages to all our students during remote learning.

###### B. Approval of Minutes for August 11, 2020, meeting

Treasurer Peter Montano motioned to accept the previous meeting's minutes. Thorn Dickinson seconded. Patti Oldmixon abstained due to absence from the August meeting. The minutes were approved 3-0 as written.

##### II. Board

###### A. Renewal of Board Terms

Members of the board may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Two members have reached the end of their first term and wish to renew their service for a second term.

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to renew the term of Christian Sparling. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All in favor.

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to renew the term of Peter Montano. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All in favor.

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to appoint board members to the following board positions: Christian Sparling as Vice Chair, Nik Charov as Secretary, and Peter Montano as Treasurer. Thorn Dickinson seconds. All in favor.

Secretary Ruth Dean has termed out. Board Chair Patti Oldmixon recognized Ruth Dean for her years of service.

###### B. Policy Updates

Executive Director Kelli Pryor extended her gratitude to former board member Ruth Dean as well. She then presented school policy updates that each require a board vote of approval.

Special Education Director Laura Parks updated the school's Child Find policy to keep the school in compliance. Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to accept the Child Find policy as documented. Treasurer Peter Montano seconded. All in favor.

Assistant Principal Mary King updated the school's Tobacco Use and Possession policy to keep the school in compliance. Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to accept the Tobacco Use and Possession policy as documented. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All in favor.

Kelli spoke about the Technology Usage Policy. It is reviewed annually to align with the school's participation in the NetworkMaine program. This update removed language to clarify that this is not an insurance policy for equipment distributed to students and faculty. Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to accept the Technology Usage policy as documented. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All in favor.

### **III. School Program**

#### **A. Interim Head of School Report**

Cicy Po discussed starting the school year with a goal of focusing on student care, teacher care, and community connections.

In the area of student care, 14 students joined the new monthly Principal's Table. They've also been called upon to lead our Wednesday morning all-student sessions. The school has developed a Student Care Team to assist those students who may need additional help, especially during remote learning. The school is also taking input from students via an emailed student survey about remote learning.

In the area of faculty care, experienced teachers have been asked to help acclimate new teachers. Faculty recently completed a suicide awareness training as well as a training on boundary setting. New teacher "Zoom rooms" are allowing more frequent peer-to-peer interaction.

In the area of community connection, we are transferring all student data into PowerSchool. We also have weekly faculty meetings, Head of School office hours, Department Representative meetings, and Baxter Parents Organization meetings. Communications are consistent and regular: students receive "the Daily" each day, while families receive weekly communications each Friday. We also have a faculty newsletter that is posted online on Friday and emailed out on Sunday.

#### **B. Head of School Interim Status**

Executive Director Kelli Pryor gave an update on Cicy Po's status. We are going to move in the next month towards a decision about whether to offer Cicy Po permanent status, continue her interim status, or start a search for a new Head of School.

#### **C. COVID-19 response**

Executive Director Kelli Pryor gave an update on our current operational status under the pandemic. We are currently one of three schools in the state in full remote mode. School Physician Dr. Charles de Sieyes provided a COVID-19 update. He discussed recent major news items related to the virus and provided clarification on testing and procedures.

**IV. Public Comment**

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon opened the floor to public comments. Questions were posed via a Google Sheet and were answered by board members and administration members.

**V. Executive Session**

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned for the board to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining pursuant to Section 405(6)(D) of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, with the agreement to return to the original Zoom room upon conclusion of the executive session to publicly vote on the collective bargaining agreement with the Baxter Educators Association.

**VI. Labor Relations**

A. Collective bargaining agreement with BEA

The board returned to public session. Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to ratify the collective bargaining agreement. Peter Montano seconded. All in favor.

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to adjourn for the evening. Peter Montano seconded. All in favor.

**Next regular meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

Via ZOOM