

# Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

## Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2020

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88975942056?pwd=QVc4b2UzQWhzNUROQkRqVitEUUVlJQT09>

Present: Board Chair Patti Oldmixon, Vice Chair Christian Sparling, Treasurer Peter Montano, Secretary Ruth Dean, Thorn Dickinson, Nik Charov

Guests: Executive Director Kelli Pryor, School Physician Dr. Charles de Sieyes

### Agenda item

#### I. Opening Items

##### A. Brief Statement By the Board Chair

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon opened the meeting with a personal statement: She genuinely believes that everyone in this community has the school's best interest at heart. A parent asked her about our goals for students at Baxter. Patti says her goal is to provide all 400+ students at Baxter with a good education and that they all feel safe. Students should feel long lasting bonds with teachers, be able to disagree without being disagreeable, and to recognize that life is hard and we don't always get what we need.

##### B. Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2020

Secretary Ruth Dean moved to accept minutes. Treasurer Peter Montano seconded. All board members voted in favor through roll call.

#### II. Finance

##### A. Update Budget Process

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon began with an update. The board is now meeting with the teachers' union to negotiate teachers' positions. As a result, plans for teaching positions to be discontinued have been put on hold.

#### III. School Program

##### A. School Year 2021 Planning

Executive Director Kelli Pryor updated the board on planning for school year 2021. On March 12th Baxter Academy was the first school in the state to go remote. The school's COVID response team has continued with its weekly meetings and continues remotely as a way to monitor worldwide response by schools. The school health team is Operations Manager Tyler Beaulieu, Student Services Coordinator Anna Gervais, School Physician Dr. Charles de Sieyes and Executive Director Kelli Pryor.

Current variables the team is looking at:

- MDOE guidance due in July

- Responsiveness to local conditions
- Host of unknowns, most with additional costs
- Health considerations for faculty/staff
- Mental and social health challenges

Baxter Academy must begin with preparing the school itself as if the school were resuming classroom instruction. For instance, a room is being converted into a medical isolation space for students presenting symptoms. The school has begun to procure PPE and build capacity for additional cleaning. There will be safety expectations while on campus. All students, staff, and visitors on campus must wear face coverings at all times. Any students, staff with cold or flu-like symptoms, or with family members who are ill, may not be on campus. Temperatures must be taken before entering the school. Shared surfaces will be disinfected multiple times daily. Physical distancing measures will be observed.

The school faces unique challenges. Our students come from 54 different towns. How does Baxter provide safe transportation across a map four times the landmass of Rhode Island? How does Baxter take precautions to prevent widespread community transmission?

The school is looking at a phased return to in person programming.

- Stage one is where we are now, real-time remote learning.
- Stage two would be remote with limited students allowed in the building on invitation only.
- Stage three is a hybrid model with 100 or more students on campus on any given day.
- Stage four would be full in-person programming but with staggered schedules.

Interim Head of School Cicy Po led a teacher reflection last Friday to reflect on remote learning so far. We've also sent out a survey to parents, staff and students to gauge thoughts on the remote learning program so far and our options for the fall. A focus will be on innovation in the coming year. Some good things have come from this time and those things will inform next year. A chief example being the ventilator project.

School Physician Dr. Charles de Sieyes joined the conversation. He gave a quick thumbnail where we are at as a nation and as a state. He emphasized the continued importance of good hand hygiene, physical distancing and wearing a mask in public to protect others. He shared information on the latest science and recommendations from experts. He then opened up to questions and answered a few from members of the board.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

##### **A. Questions remaining from June 2, .2020**

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon started by saying that last week had some technical difficulties with getting questions answered. She opened the floor to fifteen minutes of public comment. Questions were directed to her and the board answered.

Vice Chair Christian Sparling congratulated the class of 2020 on behalf of the Board of Directors. He asked everyone to turn on their cameras and participate in a 60-second dance party.

## **V. Closing**

### A. Executive session\*

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon moved that the board go into executive session.

**Next regular meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2020**

Via ZOOM

*\* Executive session to discuss collective bargaining pursuant to Section 405(6)(D) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes.*