

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 11, 2022, via Zoom

Present: Patti Oldmixon (chair), Peter Montano (treasurer), Nik Charov (secretary), Ruth Dean, Thorn Dickinson, Jana Lapoint, Simon McGurk, Executive Director Kelli Pryor, Head of School Cicy Po, Director of Special Education Laura Parks, CFO Kerry Bush, IT Director Amos Cooper, Compliance Coordinator Tyler Beaulieu

Agenda item

I. General items

Chair Patti Oldmixon called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

- A. Approval of minutes

Secretary Nik Charov motioned that the draft minutes from the December 14, 2021, meeting be approved as presented. Jana Lapoint seconded, all in favor.

- B. Policy updates

BA Executive Director Kelli Pryor reported that counsel will begin reviewing this week a number of school policies that require annual updating and approval. These will be read and voted on over the next few board meetings.

II. Finance updates

- A. Financial statements

Treasurer Peter Montano presented the profit & loss report through November 30. The school is running a net surplus of \$239k through November 30, 2021, but that will equalize by the end of the school year. No other surprises or significant variances from budget to report.

III. School updates

A. Executive Director Report

Kelli reported that applications for all grades for the upcoming school year are robust, with the application window open until February 25. Compliance coordinator Tyler Beaulieu is overseeing their collection, along with his expanded data management and compliance activities. Depending on the level of 2023 state subsidy and what number of students can be accommodated at that level, an admissions lottery may be held on March 3. Kelli and staff are working to rebuild the waitlist for 2023. Social media advertising and radio spots on MPBN are still to come.

The \$15,000 Title II-funded professional development with the Harvard School of Education continues. Researchers are guiding professional development and analysis of STEM curriculum development at BA, particularly around Flex Friday. More updates to come this winter.

The school is applying for a FEMA funding relief package that may support mask and air filter purchases or other Covid healthy and safety measures. There may also be more emergency connectivity funding for further IT upgrades.

B. Head of School report

BA Head of School Cicy Po reported that Semester One closes on January 21; Flex Friday apprenticeship proposals will be presented on January 14. Senior events fundraising is underway with parents. Cicy gave an update on some external partnerships and a summary of the presenters thus far to BA;s speakers; series. The school seeks more introductions and connections. A review of remote instruction tools and practices is underway. After one week of remote learning, the school will modify its schedule for the remainder of remote time. Mirroring the in-person day works for 1-2 days of remote at a time but is not feasible for a week or more; flexibility is required and students need more one-on-one and offline time. The Remote Learning Plan the Board approved in December may be too narrow. **Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to approve more flexibility in the Remote Learning Plan to allow for adaptation during prolonged periods when remote learning is necessary, Thorn Dickinson seconded, all in favor.** The administration will bring the revised plan to the board in February for ratification.

C. Robotics

Kelli, Peter, and robotics teacher John Amory presented a proposal to make the Outliers USFIRST robotics team a standalone nonprofit and community-based team, open to all

Southern Maine high school students. Reasons include a lack of enough mentors to support multiple local schools' teams, and a difficulty in securing corporate sponsorships for individual schools. Discussion ensued. **Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to accept The Outliers' proposal to become a community team, purchase existing equipment from BA at Fair Market Value, and continue using BA as a meeting and practice space through June 2022, Thorn Dickinson seconded, all in favor with Peter Montano, treasurer of The Outliers, recusing.**

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. Executive Session

At 7:35 p.m., Chair Patti Oldmixon motioned to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel pursuant to Section 405(6)(A) of Title 1 of the Maine Revised Statutes. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All in favor.

Upon exiting Executive Session, Patti motioned to adjourn to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm.

Next regular meeting: February 8, 2022