

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2019

185 Lancaster Street, Portland, Maine

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

Absent: Peter Morrison

Guests: Executive Director Kelli Pryor, Partnerships and Community Outreach Coordinator Heather D'Ippolito, Attorney Dan Amory, Attorney Dan Stockford, Maine Charter School Commission member Jana Lapoint

Agenda item

I. Board

Patti Oldmixon calls the meeting to order.

A. Minutes

Secretary Ruth Dean moved to accept minutes. Peter Montano seconded. All were in favor.

B. Board Chair presentation

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon welcomed the assembled crowd to the meeting and highlighted the agenda.

II. Finance

A. Financial update

Treasurer Peter Montano reported that the financial team has been assisting in the internal processes necessary to support the school's annual audit by an independent external auditor. Everything is going well even in the midst of the start of school.

III. Instructional Program

A. Introducing new administrators

Executive Director Kelli Pryor introduced Baxter's new school administrative team.

Head of School Chad Strout emerged as a strong candidate from among 13 applicants and was chosen by consensus through a hiring process that involved students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members. He had unanimous support from all parties.

Dean of Students Lauren Arnold joined the team after an expedited hiring process led by Chad Strout that included representatives from guidance and student services.

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon took a moment to welcome the new team to the work and to share priorities for the administrative team from the board's perspective:

- 1) Faculty communication with parents and students
- 2) Attendance
- 3) Grades and tracking
- 4) Professionalism

B. PEPG

Head of School Chad Strout and Dean of Students Lauren Arnold each introduced themselves and their leadership philosophies. Chad emphasized that he believes in collaborating through a professional learning community model and that his goals are high levels of learning for all students, continuous learning as a staff, and collective responsibility for the success of each student.

Dean of Students Lauren Arnold emphasized that she leads with a student-centered mindset and would be prioritizing building rapport with students and staff.

The administrators then presented the Professional Evaluation and Personal Growth plan that is mandated by the state for all schools. Baxter's plan was revised last school year by a steering committee of teachers, a parent who is also a USM education expert, and administrators at Baxter, led by interim senior administrator Rich Abramson. As revised, the plan relies on a Danielson-model of teacher evaluation. It involves SMART goals, peer coaching, and multiple forms of observations. It is a growth model and is not punitive. Evidence includes student growth measures and evidence chosen by teachers.

The board acknowledged that the plan is a living document and will evolve to adhere to new requirements and will in time include updates by the steering committee that encompass guidance, special education, and administrators. Patti motioned to accept the PEPG plan as revised. Christian seconded. All board members voted in favor of the motion.

V. Public Comment

Board Chair Patti Oldmixon opened the floor to public comment. Students, parents, teachers, and the board discussed various pressures on the school community, including the impacts of budget cuts and scheduling. The parents are forming a parent organization that will be meeting soon to identify how best to support the school.

VI. Board

A. Executive session*

The board moved into executive session in accordance with state law.*

After emerging from executive session, Peter Montano made a motion to appoint Patti Oldmixon, Christian Sparling, and Peter Montano as negotiators for the Board and to appoint

Dan Stockford as spokesperson for the Board during collective bargaining. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Next regular meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019

185 Lancaster Street, Portland, Maine

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