

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Via Zoom

Present: Chair Patti Oldmixon, Vice Chair Christian Sparling, Secretary Nik Charov, Thorn Dickinson

Absent: Treasurer Peter Montano

Agenda item

I. Opening Items

A. Approval of minutes

Chair Patti Oldmixon made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Vice Chair Christian Sparling seconded. All voted in favor with Patti serving as Nik Charov's proxy pending his arrival. All voted in favor.

B. Celebrations

Executive Director Kelli Pryor shared the good news from the school. Baxter students have received 14 regional scholastic art awards. Also, a social media showcase is celebrating seniors. College acceptances continue to be strong.

II. Finance

A. Quarter 2 financial statements

In the absence of Treasurer Peter Montano, Patti Oldmixon presented Quarter 2 financials, which demonstrate that the school remains in strong financial position. The current ratio is 3.0. The school has been bolstered by Coronavirus Relief Funding. The school's net surplus stood at \$561,059. The school continues to manage conservatively in the midst of the pandemic and with the upcoming need to refinance the debt associated with the school's facility. The school received its projected state subsidy information for 2021-2022. Based on 390 students, it anticipates \$4,402,389, down from \$4,481,447 in the current year.

Patti Oldmixon made a motion to accept the Q2 financial statements as presented. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All indicated assent via a roll call vote.

III. School program

A. Enrollment report

Executive director Kelli Pryor reported that the open enrollment period ends February 26 and the lottery will be held March 3. Current retention of students remains strong compared against other schools in the state and against the school's turnover last year.

B. Hiring report

Kelli Pryor announced that the hiring committee unanimously recommended Cicy Po, who has been serving as Interim Head of School, as a great long term fit for Baxter Academy. Cicy was offered the job and accepted the position of Head of School.

C. Head of School report

Cicy Po expressed her gratitude for the opportunity and her excitement to continue the work. She recapped the work she has steered in the interim period within the focus areas of student care, teacher care, and community connections. She walked the board through how the administration and faculty are extending the early work by prioritizing:

Accountability: As a college preparatory STEM school of choice for southern Maine, Baxter should have clear and high expectations for all students.

Family Engagement: STEM and collaborating with families are the strongest levers for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Visible Work: Students do real work that is visible internally at school and externally to the community.

Engaging Instruction: Students find right rigor, meaningful learning connected to our real world.

She considers these the “nucleotides of the DNA of BA” this year.

D. COVID response

Kelli Pryor and Dr. Charles Desieyes gave an update on BA’s ongoing response to the pandemic. BA is now moving to Stage 2, which includes continued remote learning but now some limited on-campus, in-person, voluntary lessons. Only small groups will be possible in the building, invited by teachers for specific afternoon projects. Double masks will be required, contact tracing will be in effect, and there will be “no eating, meeting, or greeting.” Arrivals will be staggered in the afternoon. Students with special education needs will be prioritized. Due to BA’s larger geographic catchment area and poor building ventilation, a full return to on-campus instruction is still not advised.

IV. Board

A. Policy updates

As begun at the previous board meeting, school attorney Dan Stockford presented updated policies for adoption. Federal Department of Education guidance was recently updated for Title IX, including more detailed definitions of gender and sexual harassment and investigation frameworks. BA staff are currently being trained on the new policies and how to properly handle discrimination allegations. After this second reading of policies, Patti Oldmixon motioned to adopt the updated policies ACA, ACAA, ACAA-R, ACAB, and ACAB-R. Thorn Dickinson seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

V. Public Comment

A. Q&A

Attendees submitted questions verbally and through the Google Spreadsheet about the Stage 2 return of some students, vaccination mandates, and reopening plans.

VI. Executive Session*

The board 4-0 voted to go into Executive Session at 6:25pm for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel pursuant to Section 405(6)(E) of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes.

Following the executive session, Patti Oldmixon made a motion to adjourn. Thorn Dickinson seconded. All were in favor.

Next regular meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021