

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 8, 2021, presented via Zoom

Present: Patti Oldmixon (chair), Christian Sparling (vice chair), Peter Montano (treasurer), Nik Charov (secretary), Thorn Dickinson

Absent:

Agenda item

I. Opening Items

Chair Patti Oldmixon called the meeting to order at 5:31pm over Zoom.

A. Approval of minutes

Secretary Nik Charov motioned that the draft minutes from the May 11, 2021, meeting be approved as presented. Thorn Dickinson seconded, all in favor.

Charov motioned that the minutes from January 12, 2021, be amended to include attendance. Peter Montano seconded, all in favor.

B. Celebrations

BA Executive Director Kelli Pryor gave an update on the “tailgate party graduation,” the 2021 diploma design (which includes a Zoom window), and the latest list of college acceptances. Kelli is looking forward to receiving more alumni survey results to learn more about college experiences. Patti applauded the diverse graduates that spoke at the Senior Picnic.

C. Board terms & update

Patti motioned to offer Nik Charov a full first term as a board member. Nik had previously been serving out the remainder of member Peter Morrison’s second term, which completed with the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. Peter seconded, all in favor.

Vice-chair Christian Sparling motioned to approve the slate of board officers for the coming year: chair Oldmixon, vice-chair Sparling, treasurer Montano, secretary Charov. Thorn seconded, all in favor.

Patti announced that the July 2021 board meeting would be cancelled to give everyone some needed time off. The August board meeting date is to be determined.

Patti reiterated the need to add additional board members to share the responsibilities of governance. The board nominating committee has a number of applicants to review and continues to seek and reviews prospective members based on their STEM backgrounds, fundraising and other pertinent experience, mission orientation, and familiarity with BA.

II. Finance

A. Financial statements

Treasurer Peter Montano presented the profit & loss report through April 30. BA continues to maintain an assets-to-liabilities ratio of 2.6. Cash-on-hand exceeds 54 days of operations, but will be higher once \$554,000 in COVID Relief Fund are reimbursed. Net assets are \$1.864M, with \$500K of debt service accumulated. BA is accruing summer payroll to pay faculty for 12 months through their recurring annual 10-month contracts. BA will run a surplus through June, though it will be lower by the end of the school year. Some equipment purchases are still to come.

B. Teacher recognition

Chair Patti Oldmixon, on behalf of the board, extended gratitude and appreciation to all the faculty for a job well done during strenuous, unprecedented circumstances. The board chose to reward teachers with performance bonuses but first had to review that with the Baxter Educators Association Collective Bargaining Committee. This bonus will not be included in salary calculations currently under bargaining review. **Patti motioned to award a \$1,000 bonus stipend to all teachers and Ed Techs by June 30, in recognition of the past year's meritorious service. Peter seconded, all in favor.**

III. School program

A. Head of School report

Head of School Cicy Po presented updates. Mary King and teachers coordinated a Flex Friday showcase which included projects such as: internships in veterinary medicine and climate change with an oyster farmer, an aviation device based on hummingbird flight, and the restoration of a 1969 Dodge Charger. Final marks will be posted on June 17 for grades 9-11. Cicy's year-end meetings with faculty, for evaluations, are underway. 97% of seniors are graduating with diplomas; other 3% working this summer to complete. Small-group meetings with parents will be held June 28-29 to gather wisdom and input for next year. Teacher training will be held in August.

B. Year-end monitoring

Kelli stated that the annual summary report is due to the Maine State Charter Commission on July 9. On August 3, school leadership and governance officers will meet with the Commission.

C. SY 2022 planning & Covid-19

Kelli stated that, as of this date, BA expects to offer full-time, in-person instruction to all grades come September. Vaccines are available for ages 12 and up; staff and faculty are fully vaccinated; and the HVAC system has been upgraded. The school is prepared to resume in-person instruction but is staying tuned to CDC and Maine Dept. of Education guidance. Surveys are going out to parents and students to gauge, among other things, whether

enough students will participate in pooled testing in September to make it worthwhile. More details to come at the August meeting and via email.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments raised at this meeting.

V. Executive Session*

Patti motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:10pm, Christian seconded, all in favor.

The board came out of Executive Session at 7:48. Patti motioned to adjourn, Peter seconded, all in favor.

Next regular meeting: Stay tuned for August 2021

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