

**The SABIS International Charter School
160 Joan Street
Springfield, MA 01129
Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – July 15, 2020
via conference call**

In Attendance: Sonja Shaw, Ellen McDonald, Luis Aponte, Atu White, Patrick White, Paula Meara, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Freddy Lopez, Derryl Gibbs

Guests: Maretta Thomsen, Amy Wesley, Vanessa Pileggi, Steve Bissonnette

Not Present: Daryl Johnson, Dena Facchini, James Hollins

I. Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Paula Meara moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of 6/17; special meeting of 6/24 & 7/7/2020; contract review committee meetings of 6/23 & 6/30/2020; finance/facilities committee meeting of 7/9/2020; and education committee meetings of 7/1 & 7/13/2020. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved by voice vote, Sonja Shaw, Ellen McDonald, Luis Aponte, Atu White, Patrick White, Paula Meara, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Freddy Lopez, Derryl Gibbs.

III. **Director's Report**

Maretta Thomsen reviewed updates to policies for the Student Handbook.

(1) Code of Conduct/only edit is that students must also act appropriately and follow code of conduct during remote learning services provided by or through the school. Ellen McDonald asked about rules during remote participation/many safeguards on the Chromebooks such as being able to access educational sites only. This policy is focused on their personal behavior and expectations whether in school building or using on-line learning. This makes it clear for students that behavior expectation is the same as when on-site. Luis Aponte asked if he could borrow a Chromebook.

(2) The uniform policy, to add black chino style for all the grades. This is the only change to the dress code.

3) Use of student photographs/policy says that students' photographs may be used for various publications, etc. and that if parents/families do not wish to have that happen they can opt out by signing the form.

Luis Aponte moved to accept the policy changes to student handbook. Seconded by Joyce Gondek and approved by voice vote, YES: Luis Aponte, Ellen McDonald, Paula Meara, Atu White, Patrick White, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Joyce Gondek, Freddy Lopez, Sonja Shaw, Derryl Gibbs.

Graduation on August 8 will have a "Plan A" and "Plan B", for weather. Students and families will receive a letter; will be held outdoors but in case of poor weather would move into cafetorium for Plan B. Each student would be allotted two tickets. Robo call and email will go home and posted on website. Students will walk in front of peers, photographer, music, program, speakers include BOT Chair, Mayor, and two students.

Have been working on the plans for reopening and three plans are due to the Commissioner--fully open, fully online, or hybrid model. Commissioner is issuing a template by tomorrow morning with the goal to have done by Friday (due on 7/17). Final plan is due on August 10. Remote learning plan would be just like it is except that students will be graded. If all students return, would be difficult, but reviewing all options. How would busing be handled with social distancing? Commissioner will issue guidance within next couple weeks/school is receiving news on many procedures. They have suggested that school doesn't advise parents until commissioner has accepted a plan which may not be until after August 10. Parents in survey expressed fear in sending children to school. Participation to survey was 460 families. Will also make calls/must know accurate contact information for each student. Commissioner mentioned 3' distance, Luis asked what about the 6' requirement?

IV. **Facilities/Finance**

Grounds plans of 50% were provided and the RFP is anticipated by mid-August. Practice fields will be ok to practice but won't be ready for sports until fall 2021 at least. No payments made yet but funds have already been allocated.

Facilities committee met on July 9. Freddy provided an updated of the recent meeting per Steve Bissonnette's report.

Steve Bissonnette provided a recap of the report for the full board including per-pupil funding—State numbers may not be provided to schools until late August.

Paula Meara moved to authorize the finance/facilities committee to approve and move forward with the RFP when it is ready. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved by voice vote YES: Derryl Gibbs, Freddy Lopez, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Patrick White, Paula Meara, Ellen McDonald, Luis Aponte, Sonja Shaw.

Freddy Lopez noted regarding the employee separation agreement of July 2019, it was forwarded to Atty. Nicolai for review. Nothing new to report as of this date.

V. **Education Committee**

Ellen McDonald reported, the committee has met twice since the last meeting to review SEM summer enrichment program and whether students not in summer school should keep the Chromebooks over summer. Committee concurred students should keep Chromebooks over summer, hoping they will participate in enrichment program. Update on participation numbers at next committee meeting. Reviewed accountability plan which runs in conjunction with the charter. Reviewed final draft and version with SICS and DESE. The committee reviewed and recommends that the board accepts and approves the plan dated June 25, 2020 to be submitted to DESE by August 1. **Paula Meara moved that the board accept the education committee recommendation to accept the plan as presented above. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved by voice vote, YES: Derryl Gibbs, Freddy Lopez, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Patrick White, Paula Meara, Ellen McDonald, Luis Aponte, Sonja Shaw.**

VI. **Governance**

Paula Meara updated the Board. Management agreement states that Board has 30 days to approve a Director presented by SEM; need small update to bylaws to match (had previously been worded 60 days). Will update and send to DESE; and this was discussed at length during subcommittee meetings. Consensus of committee is that since the language in bylaws was taken directly from DESE guidelines, there is no need for attorney review.

Sonja Shaw thanked the governance committee for its work on bylaws and also working with the contract committee.

VII. **Contract Committee**

Sonja Shaw reviewed management agreement extension (Atu White left the meeting around 6:45 p.m.) which would require a vote to extend the existing management agreement until the 8/20/2020. **Joyce Gondek moved to approve the management contract extension that will stay in place until 8/20/2020. Seconded by Anne-Marie Nicolai and approved by voice vote YES; Luis Aponte, Ellen McDonald, Paula Meara, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Joyce Gondek, Freddy Lopez, Derryl Gibbs, Sonja Shaw. ABSTAINED: Patrick White.**

VIII. **Chair's Report**

Board members welcomed Joyce Gondek back to meetings.

Sonja Shaw reminded all board members to update their contact information and provide any changes if needed.

Sonja Shaw thanked all of the trustees for their work this year with many meetings along with SEM and the school.

Joyce Gondek moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Derryl Gibbs. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary
SICS Board of Trustees

Attachments

6/25/2020 accountability plan
Agreement extension
minutes