

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

**Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – April 16, 2020**  
**Governance Committee**  
**via conference call**

In Attendance: Joyce Gondek, Paula Meara, Luis Aponte, Sonja Shaw, Atu White

Guests: Vanessa Pileggi

Not Present: James Hollins

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

II. **Bylaws Update**

Joyce Gondek sent a draft to the committee and asked for feedback.

Sonja Shaw asked if changes were tracked in Word for easier review. Paula Meara explained that DESE sent about 9 sets of bylaws. Utilized two for review to bring SABIS into that format, referring back to the information sent by DESE from 2005 and 2009 as examples. Worked on lists from DESE and identified potential changes—using current bylaws noted every change in bold to be able to tell what was different. Using MGL and CMR language per DESE to incorporate to make consistent with law, underlined every phrase moved into bylaws.

Atu White asked questions relating to the business manager and director for language – does the committee have language yet that will be in unison with contract? Sonja Shaw noted be specific in replacing “director and business manager” for the word “personnel”. SEM would bring candidate to the Board and Board would actually do the “hiring”. Noted changes from DESE are in bold for review purposes.

- Article 2 use “them” instead of “men and women”.
- Article 3 terms left as is, noting Lowell and Holyoke bylaws terms mirror these as well.

Removed sentence “incapacity or death”. And “to exercise” not “exercising”.

Remove reference to 3.3 “in accordance with” ... refers to new charter schools/does not apply here.

Annual budget approval, law says “oversee”. Use word ‘approve’. Suggested “oversee and approve annual budget”

Delete “complaint” section at end (redundant)

“In accordance w/ MA OML”—review OML reference.

- Article 5/officers, any additional language?

Committee should send any suggestions to governance committee/Joyce. Previous governance didn't align with laws.

Would it go to attorney prior to going to DESE?

- Article 5 officers, “may be prescribed.. from time to time”, change to, “year to year” since officers' terms are each one year. Reviewed language in section.

Add, “in the absence or at the request of the Chair” to language.

“unexcused absences”, include language “at discretion”, and number of meetings. Remove “registered mail” and just use “written notification”.

Omit first word section 9 about fiscal year/ board doesn't change that. Article 12 can be removed/was incorporated already.

- Remember to update new date in footer area.

Committee thanked Paula Meara and Joyce Gondek for all the work on this.

Paula Meara moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved; meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary  
SICS Board of Trustees

Attachments

Bylaws drafts