

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

**Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – January 21, 2021
via conference call**

In Attendance: Atu White, Sonja Shaw, John Delaney, Luis Aponte, Dena Facchini, Paula Meara, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Freddy Lopez,

Guests: Amy Wesley, Vanessa Pileggi, Lara De Almeida, Christie Sieple-Cole, Tara Asher, Amy Wesley, Tim Tynan, Cynthia Miller, Kathleen Dupuis

Not Present: Daryl Johnson, Derryl Gibbs

I. Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Paula Meara moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 12/17/20 and the Governance meeting of 12/29/20. Seconded by Luis Aponte and approved by voice vote, Sonja Shaw, Luis Aponte, John Delaney, Dena Facchini, Paula Meara, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Freddy Lopez, Atu White

III. **Finance/Facilities Committee**

No new updates.

IV. **Education Committee**

Education Committee Chair Anne-Marie Nicolai deferred the update to what was previously reported by Amy Wesley's team this evening and will provide any further updates at the next meeting.

V. **Governance Committee**

Bylaws Update: Paula Meara shared that the bylaws are provisionally approved and awaiting a vote. Suggestions were discussed regarding Board member search language within the bylaws by adding preference is for Springfield residents when the volunteers are available with the skills and expertise required but, when it's necessary residents outside the Springfield area.

Paula Meara motioned to accept the bylaws with the correction. Seconded by John Delaney and approved by voice vote, YES: Luis Aponte, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Joyce

Gondek, John Delaney, Paula Meara, Dena Fachinni, Sonja Shaw, Atu White
UNAVAILABLE: Freddy Lopez

Consideration of Keith Millet for Trustee - Joyce Gondek reported that during the Governance meeting the members agreed to table the vote on Keith Millet for a few months.

Consideration of Todd Fairman for Trustee - Todd Fairman the committee would like to consider voting him as a Trustee based on his financial background and technological experience. He was also a member of the Booster Club within the last five years.

Luis Aponte moved to accept Todd Fairman as a Trustee. Seconded by Dena Fachinni and approved by voice vote, YES: Sonja Shaw, Luis Aponte, John Delaney, Dena Fachinni, Paula Meara, Joyce Gondek, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Freddy Lopez, Atu White

VI. **Chair's Report**

Yearbook Quotes & Pictures - Chair Atu White stated the quotes and pictures are past due therefore he is sending an email with all the information so it can be completed.

Mr. White also explained that agendas for meetings must be given to Lesenia Fields at least four business days prior so she can properly schedule the meeting and make sure she is able to attend. If she is unable to attend, the committee chair will be responsible for hosting and recording the meeting. Chair White also noted that meetings need to start on time so they do not run over an hour or an hour and a half. Mr. White did an identification by voice of which subcommittees Trustees are on.

Mr. White would like to hold a special BOT meeting on February 25th. A virtual board retreat will cover simple Zoom training as well as the role and responsibilities of being a Trustee and will last about two hours. The tentative date for the retreat is April 10th.

Management Agreement Update - Chair White explained that the charter is under scrutiny from DESE because the management agreement was flagged due to student outcomes but it should be all taken care of in regards to that particular issue at this time. The second issue revolves around the school director. DESE wants the language to show that the school director reports to the Board and acts as a partner of the Board ensuring the services from SEM meet the school needs. The previous agreement gave SEM the ability to hire, manage, evaluate, compensate and terminate all other staff associated with the charter school but, it is actually the school director that has that responsibility.

School Director Search Process - The Board was blindsided by a posting for school director by SEM in November saying candidate pool assessments were being done ahead of the January season. The Board has to approve the job description and salary. Mr. White asked SEM to suspend the search until the Board has approved all aspects. From SEM's perspective there are a few good candidates from their search. An Ad hoc committee will be organized by the Executive committee to handle the superintendent search.

Interim Director's Report - Justin Baker shared that report cards will be going out early next week. Assessments and diagnostic exams have been able to identify whenever students are in need of additional assistance allowing administrators and parents the opportunity to stay on top of learning. No details have been released regarding MCAS as of yet. SAT formats have been changed and the optional essay portion has been removed from the test. Students can elect to take the SAT'S but they will not be able to take the test on SABIS campus this year due to COVID. Thirty-six seniors have received acceptances.

Nurse Kathleen Dupuis shared that the department of public health has removed the requirement for the annual flu vaccine to all enrolled students due to an enormous pushback by parents. Currently SABIS's overall immunization compliance rate is 92%. Students are too young for the OCVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is not a requirement at most work places. They will keep staff and family updated as new developments become available.

Tara Asher reported that enrollment is currently 1572, 2 shy of the 1574 target. SABIS is actively searching for students, specifically 9th graders by the February 15th DESE enrollment deadline for recruitment. Housing development advertisements, social media and digital platforms are being used among other recruiting outlets.

Anne-Marie Nicolai moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Luis Aponte. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary
SICS Board of Trustees