

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

Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – March 5, 2020
Education Committee

In Attendance: Ellen McDonald, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Patrick White

Guests: Amy Wesley (via speakerphone), Maretta Thomsen, Justin Baker, Vanessa Pileggi

Not Present: Atu White, Joyce Gondek

I. **Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.**

II. **Director/Succession Plan**

Hear from SEM on plan for Director, succession, etc. Amy Wesley thought this meeting was to ratify Maretta Thomsen as Director. Ellen McDonald noted that the committee just wants to know what the future plan is, as SEM had indicated a national search for Director would be done. Amy Wesley noted that with negotiations and relationship with Board, it would be professionally unethical to recruit when the management agreement is not in place. Not in position to recruit yet. Ellen McDonald asked about the normal avenue for succession. SEM said that it is worked on, on an ongoing basis—the plan is to request board ratify Maretta Thomsen as Director coming into the next academic year. After that, they are developing talent internally but once a management agreement is in place, they will nationally recruit. Everything on hold for now until the contract is in place and approved by DESE.

III. **SEM Performance Evaluation**

Ellen McDonald reviewed the document.

Opening paragraph – need to address specific objectives. Paragraph should be what SEM has done over course of 2018-2019. Amy Wesley said SEM understands it to be looking at student outcomes as deliverables and indicate met or not met and bulk of document will look at strategies to sustain improvement. Included intro for individuals unfamiliar with SABIS system. Suggestion to use bulletpoints? Document is for Board and DESE.

Focus should be on results of 2018-2019 year; specific plan to maintain or improve and to be effective, plan must contain substantive items for implementation for clear path to improvement, quantitative results and defined time period for results.

Repeated items from 2018 such as prep list (was it successful in 2017-2018? If not, what went wrong, why doing again? Or if it was successful, what areas, what could be

expanded on?) The SMSS report mentioned page 3—action plan—what is that going to consist of? Action plans would pertain to individual students. Ellen McDonald asked for examples, what kinds of things are in the plans?

Page 4 use of “Read Naturally”, etc. – example, what would SEM do if these items do not work?

Page 5, refers to ITL carts. This improvement was in the previous year’s report. Note that last year was Chromebooks and this year is Windows-based.

Show examples—what will be the result or goal?

Page 6, 2019 asterisk doesn’t refer to anything.

What adjustments are planned to be made (as mentioned in science and math curriculum). What is goal of those adjustments? Amy Wesley noted the goal for all is sustained improvement, improvement in delivering student outcomes;

Amy Wesley asked for a copy of the report that the State sent to the Board. State wanted Board to have more control and monitoring of SEM.

Aggregate SPG used for a point of reference (no longer used).

AMS testing / mentions partnership with collaborative. Not doing this year. What were results? This was removed/ can achieve through different means and have since restructured SPED services. Part of last year’s efforts put more foundation in place. Some will be part of Student Opportunity Act.

Page 14 internal AMS periodic results, plan for below 85% proficiency – says “goal is met” – very large number of students, how to do? What is the plan? Looking for “how”, as in, what is being done now? Amy Wesley said SEM has indicated what they are doing now, but can provide more detail. Patrick White asked what benchmarks should be set for growth? Document is per contract. Amy Wesley noted the data here goes through 2018-2019 year and is not comparison with 2019-2020. Noted, presenting monthly results to committee.

The department of education evaluates the school’s progress annually; “making substantial progress toward targets.” Ellen McDonald noted the current renewal contains conditions again; grades 3-8 are struggling.

Maretta Thomsen and Justin Baker talked about the 6-8 initiative now vs previous weekly meetings which were not driven by data. Weekly the plan is altered to suit data to make plan for following week. As an example, during Student Life time and getting specific tutoring on missed concepts and keeping to SABIS program with fidelity.

Offer all board members opportunity to learn more about SABIS system for a level of familiarity with management company and its system; can walk all board members through SABIS system. Can offer to the Board. Ellen can note in Education update at next meeting.

Page 17/Compliance category:

Dissemination/ is there a plan/ this area had been identified as weak.

The Commissioner's report mentions Kaleidoscope program/best practices from each school, as example.

Committee may meet next at end of March after report is updated.

Anne-Marie Nicolai moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Patrick White. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary
SICS Board of Trustees

Attachments

SEM self-evaluation