

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

**Minutes of SABIS Board of Trustees Meeting – May 11, 2020**  
**Education Committee**  
**via conference call**

In Attendance: Ellen McDonald, Patrick White, Anne-Marie Nicolai, Atu White (until 6:30), Joyce Gondek, Sonja Shaw

Guests: Vanessa Pileggi

Not Present: n/a

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I. **Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.**

II. **Benchmarks for Contract**

Ellen McDonald reported. She spoke with DESE with Atu White on Wednesday. Board had proposed 15-point increase across the board on ‘meets or exceeds’ per year and they indicated this may be wrong direction. Look at school results under accountability report where you can look at performance as it relates to other schools and how it relates to accountability/ earned points and total possible points to see whether growth is being achieved. Ellen had sent the DESE “Leaders Guide” to board members for review. Math MCAS declined across the board/ should that be addressed? Anne-Marie Nicolai noted although we are looking at everything like attendance, graduation, etc. should be looking at how to improve the younger grades/focus on that. This report makes it look like the school is near the lowest performing of schools. Suggestion of “five point” benchmark wouldn’t make sense because total possible points is four. A “3” represents 75%. DESE representatives were going to find out if conditions would be extended to 2023. “Three out of four” proposal is adequate.

Concern with difference between performance based on SABIS and non-SABIS curriculum. How to communicate the disconnect and also consider parents’ expectations? Anne-Marie Nicolai noted DESE materials containing questions for school boards to ask if underperforming and what kind of change they should be implementing? Looking at detailed data for HS math it’s declined; expectation is performance of each subgroup shall result in 3 points which signifies that they have met the target. Anything at 0 or 1 should be at 3 points; anything at 4 should be maintained. Improvement indicator related to attendance discussed.

For SGP, goal in contract was 50; have never met. Typical growth of 3 across board would be the goal. Keep general for now; if need more detail/itemized later can adjust. Numbers of ELL students reviewed. Get more information on how ELL students are supported.

Ellen will create a summary based on this review, including language from charter renewal and provide to Atu White on Tuesday. Noted “trends” at top of DESE report on line for 2018 as example.

Patrick White asked how to consider, if benchmarks in the contract are not met, what are the consequences and does that information come from the contract committee? Sonja Shaw noted the board can explore its options any time. Patrick White noted previous 90-day clause put board at disadvantage; looking at holistic picture but had restrictions because of stipulations in the contract because of the non-renewal notification required. That clause will no longer be in the contract. What if renewal conditions are extended; does board have option to pursue its due diligence as far as available options? Previous problem was timeline; need language in contract as far as monitoring to allow board leeway to pursue alternatives as needed? SEM needs to meet expectations.

Of items shared by DESE, Board to have final authority; clear delineation of SEM and Board responsibilities.

Patrick White moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Anne-Marie Nicolai. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Nicolai, Secretary  
SICS Board of Trustees

Attachments

Ellen McDonald 5/7/2020 email containing link to DESE Leaders Guide