

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2015

54 York Street, Portland, Maine

Directors Present: Kelli Pryor, Allison Crean Davis, Kim Gustafson, Peter Montano, Peter Morrison, Christian Sparling, Ruth Dean

Guests Present: Carl Stasio (Executive Director), Michele LaForge (Head of School, notetaker), Erik Christensen (student observer)

Agenda item
<p>I. Opening items</p> <p>Kelli Pryor, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm.</p> <p>1. Minutes</p> <p>Kelli made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on April 14, 2015. Allison Crean Davis seconded. All board members present unanimously approved the board minutes from April 14, 2015.</p>
<p>II. Academic program</p> <p>A. Testing</p> <p>Michele LaForge, Head of School, gave an update on standardized testing. Baxter tested students in Smarter Balanced and NWEA during the last week of April and the first weeks of May.</p> <p>B. Shaping 2015-16</p> <p>Michele outlined the hiring process for the 2015-16 school year including inclusion of faculty, student, and parent involvement; interviews by a small hiring team, Michele, Kate Driver (Director of Guidance) and Mo Nunez (Special Ed Director); a recommendation by the hiring team, and final decision by Head of School</p> <p>The last day of school, at present, is June 24. Baxter piloted a program in snow day learning this year. Goals were set by students and tied to standards, executed and documented. A presentation of the program and its value was made by four students, two parents, Elke Perks, and Michele LaForge to the Charter Commission.</p>
<p>III. Finances</p> <p>A. Development</p>

Contributions at this point stand at \$55,179 in general contributions, and \$25,400 in grants. Baxter will be offering families and supporters another opportunity to contribute to the Annual Appeal next month, before the end of the school year.

Outreach: Kelli and Shanna Guevin attended a Chamber event that was talking about R&D in Maine. MDI, Bigelow Labs, Jackson Lab were all present. They talked about the grant money that is coming into the state as a result of the biological research that is going on. What was wonderfully heartening about the event were the way that outsiders to Baxter are starting to speak up for us and on our behalf.

Peter Montano spoke about the Outliers, Baxter's robotics team, and how impressive their performance was as a rookie team and how much the students have grown over this year.

Kelli reported that she and Jon Amory presented at an MIT luncheon and the great reception to the presentation likely means more visitors on Fridays.

Format of Flex Friday presentations. Open day, presentations, and exhibits. Suggestions from the Board: video of some of the presentations, exit cards and some way to capture data (demographics, attendance, etc.), maybe a poster presentation where presentations are shorter, a bound volume of infographics, slideshare.

First week of August will be linked to the Maine State of Learning Badging program. One week summer program aimed at middle school students and rising freshmen. The goal is to give students beyond Baxter access to Baxter. This is part of the Baxter Internship program since some classes will be taught by students.

IV. Facilities

A. Satellite space

This discussion was tabled for executive session.

V. Transportation

A. Planning

We are spending about \$210,000 in transportation costs for this current school year. Our goal is to hold costs down even while adding students. The goal is to move to 320 students for no more than \$225,000. The solution will be many people placing many pieces of the puzzle: public transportation options, carpooling, upperclassmen driving, free satellite parking or transport, advocacy for financial support in the community.

VI. Outreach

1. Goodwill tours

Kelli updated the board about guests who have been visiting during Flex Friday.

2. Robotics

Peter Montano discussed the robotics team's experience at World FIRST Robotics competition in St. Louis. The rookie team emerged as the highest rookie seed in its division.

VII. Public Discussion

The board meeting was then open for public discussion; there was no public discussion.

Kelli moved that the board conclude the meeting and enter into executive session¹. Allison seconded the motion. All board members unanimously approved. The public portion of the board meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

VIII. Executive session

Next meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 9; 54 York Street

¹ MRSA § 405(6) provides as follows:

Deliberations on only the following matters may be conducted during an executive session: * * *

C. Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein or disposition of publicly held property or economic development only if premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency; * * *