

**BADEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
*Regular Meeting***

November 19, 2018

Call to order

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 5:00 by Mr. Catanzarite.

Roll Call

Present:

Mrs. Marta Karwoski

Mr. Stephen Catanzarite

Mr. Michael Swartzmiller

Mr. John Silbert

Ms. Connie Mabin

Absent

Dr. Andrew Oberg

Dr. Pamela Rossi-Keen

Dr. Alison Mirasola

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

Ms. Mabin motioned to adopt the agenda. Mr. Silbert seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Ms. Mabin motioned to amend the agenda to include the contract with Barrels to Beethoven and also include the board passing a resolution to give administration authorization to secure financing for construction. Mr. Silbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Teacher Comment

The BACS teachers, led by spokeswoman Sara McMillen, addressed the board about their need for a pay scale that goes to steps 10-15. The teachers summarized their commitment to the arts-integration mission of the school and expressed concern about some challenges with growth and extra work to start programs from scratch as reasons why this needs to be addressed. Teachers were offended by an alleged comment by someone in administration that they “were replaceable.” (See full written statement attached.)

Mr. Catanzarite thanked them for their comments and assured teachers they were appreciated and announced the formation of a personnel committee on the board to address a competitive pay scale.

Mr. Swartzmiller suggested that a more permanent solution be considered, perhaps in the form of a pay ceiling.

Public Comment

Parent Mandy Bruno spoke about alleged bullying of her daughter, a student at BACS, and acknowledged that the administration has been meeting with her and doing their best and that she was not there to criticize them. But she asked that the board and administration look at things such as possible training for lunch aides and others to help better address the issue of behavior she feels is chipping away at the school’s good reputation.

Mr. Catanzarite told Mrs. Bruno that the board heard her, and we have confidence in our administration and teachers and we believe they will handle it correctly.

Administrator’s Report

Ms. Bensink reminded the board that they needed to keep the meeting open (recessed) until a November 26 vote on the BACS Comprehensive Plan 07/01/2019-06/30/2022 because of legal posting requirements.

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Ms. Bensink gave an update on the construction project for the new classrooms and said the project was going well.

Ms. Bensink and Mrs. Poleti gave an update on the bank loan for the construction project, saying it was scheduled to close that week and would allow the school to only use funds it needed, not necessarily the amount of the credit line.

Ms. Bensink reported the kindergarten musical went well.

Mr. Mathew Davis reported that a new evaluation tool rolled out by the state would soon allow BACS to show it is among the best in Beaver County when it comes to test scores and other standards.

Financial Report

Mrs. Karwoski motioned that the Board approve a. of the financial report below and it was seconded by Ms. Mabin. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Mabin motioned that the Board approve b. of the financial report below and it was seconded by Mr. Swartzmiller. Mrs. Poleti walked through the balance sheet and gave an update on the Ambridge billing situation, saying they have not paid any invoices for the current school year and requested guidance from the solicitor and the board on how to proceed. The motion was unanimously approved.

- a. **Recommend the Board approve the list of invoices paid in in October, 2018 in the amount of \$367,703.37 from the general fund.**
- b. **Recommend the Board approve the attached financial statements as of October 31, 2018**

Change in Board of Directors meeting times

Ms. Mabin moved and Mr. Swartzmiller seconded changing the board meeting times to 6 pm start instead of 5 pm to accommodate some board members work schedules. The motion passed 4-1, with Mrs. Karwoski voting no.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Karwoski moved and Ms. Mabin seconded electing a personnel committee. Unanimously approved and Mr. Catanzarite appointed Mrs. Karwoski, Ms. Mabin and Mr. Swartzmiller to the committee to work with the administrative team and teachers when needed.

Barrels for Beethoven

Mrs. Karwoski motioned that the Board approve the Barrels to Beethoven contract (Steel pans) for \$7,850. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swartzmiller. There was discussion about the scope and length of the contract. Ms. Bensink explained it was unchanged from the last contract. The motion was passed unanimously.

Board resolution

Ms. Mabin moved and Mr. Silbert seconded a motion to pass a resolution of the board of trustees to give administration authorization to secure financing of \$1.2 million in relation to activities building construction.

Ms. Bensink explained this was needed to move forward with the loan and that the entire 1.2 million dollar line of credit may not be used, only what is needed. Mr. Catanzarite said lawyers have thoroughly reviewed the terms. The motion was unanimously passed.

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Executive Session

Mr. Swartzmiller motioned to move into Executive Session in order to discuss Personnel issues in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Mr. Silbert seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Mrs. Karwoski motioned and Mr. Silbert seconded to leave executive session. Motion carried.

Personnel Report

Ms. Mabin motioned to approve the personnel report dated November 19, 2018 and Mr. Swartzmiller seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Recess

Mr. Silbert motioned and Mr. Swartzmiller seconded that the Board recess the meeting until 11/26/18 phone vote at 11:00am on the BACS Comprehensive plan. The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting was recessed.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened on November 26, 2018 at 11:00am. Mrs. Karwoski, Mr. Pollak, Ms. Bensink, Mr. Catanzarite, Dr. Rossi-Keen, Mr. Swartzmiller, Mr. Silbert, and Dr. Oberg were in attendance.

2018 Comprehensive Plan

Dr. Oberg motioned to amend the agenda to include approving the 2018 BACS Comprehensive Plan that was posted on our website for 28 days. Mrs. Karwoski seconded and the motion was passed.

Dr. Rossi-Keen motioned to approve the 2018 BACS Comprehensive Plan that was posted on our website for 28 days. Mr. Silbert seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Adjourn

Mrs. Karwoski motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Silbert. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed by: _____

Dr. Pamela Rossi-Keen

Board Secretary