

Foothills Academy
College Preparatory
7191 E. Ashler Hills
Scottsdale, Arizona 85266

Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013 5:30PM, Seminar Room

In attendance: Tammy Dowd (briefly), Kristin Dybvig-Pawelko, Clea Edwards, Ted Ferris, Joan McGregor, Don Senneville, Nancy Tribbensee

1. Call to the Audience:

None.

2. Review and approval of minutes from the September 16, 2013 Meeting

The September meeting minutes were reviewed. Ferris moved to approve the minutes; Tribbensee seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

3. Consideration and approval of the 2013 Annual Financial Report

The Board reviewed the *2013 Annual Financial Report*. Tribbensee requested a review of the cost of SPED, which increased since the previous year's budget. (It went down in 2012, then up again in 2013.) Senneville stated that the aide was probably included in that line item but will review this with the accountant and get back to the Board. Tribbensee asked about the prices of pupil transportation. Senneville explained that more field trips in 2013 than 2012. Senneville noted that FA expenses increased by approximately \$50,000, in 2013. Almost all of this was in base salary increases, due to Prop. 301 and performance pay. Revenue has dropped from 2012 to this year relatively substantially; reasons for this may include enrollment, support fees unpaid, and others. FA just received a hardship allowance of \$5400. Ferris moved to approve the *2013 Annual Financial Report*; Tribbensee seconded. By a unanimous vote, the motion to approve the *2013 Annual Financial Report* passed.

4. Review and approval of the *Declaration of Curricular & Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards*

Senneville provided the board with an overview of work at the elementary and high/middle school campuses to inform and train teachers in the updates to the Arizona Academic Standards Articulated by Grade Level (Standards) in the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. This includes faculty collaboration at weekly meetings on best practices, rooted Arizona and Common Core State Standards. Reading is being heavily emphasized across the curriculum, as is writing.

Senneville reviewed FA's school evaluation procedures, which FACP Principal presented to the Board in detail at the September meeting. These are rigorous, data-driven assessment practices, based upon a variety of measures, including standardized tests, observation, and student improvement (*inTasc*).

The Board was confident that Foothills Academy has (a) adopted a curriculum that is aligned with the Standards, and (b) adopted an evaluation system that assesses whether

teachers are integrating the Standards into their instructional practices. Edwards moved to approve the *Declaration of Curricular & Instructional Alignment to the Arizona Academic Standards*; Dybvig-Pawelko seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion to approve the declaration was approved.

5. Approval of Foothills Academy’s effort to apply for and implement a program under the Arizona Online Instruction designation. *[This item is put forth to make more specific a similar item regarding our online program approved by this Board last year.]*

Foothills Academy wishes to participate in the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools Arizona Online Instruction Program. Edwards presented the Board with an overview of recent efforts in support of the Foothills Academy’s aspirations to extend operations beyond its physical campus. The school is enthusiastic about the opportunity to enhance its ability to serve students, and better prepare them for the demands of 21st century college and career experiences. Senneville and Edwards reminded the Board of the details of the application, including the non-refundable processing fee of \$3,000 and active Demonstration processes, to amend the terms of the FA charter adding an online school that provides a comprehensive educational program for grades 7-12. “Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law A.R.S. §38-431.01)” are required.

Foothills Academy chose to pilot a blended learning program in preparation for pursuit of a fully online educational program. After nearly a year of successfully expanding the integration of online educational tools and technologies through the FACP curriculum, including offering an online summer school for grades 6-12 and expanding electives options for grades 10-12, the school is in an especially strong position to apply for Arizona Online Instruction designation.

Ferris moved to approve the motion that Foothills Academy apply amend the charter under the Arizona Online Instruction Program of Instruction Amendment Request; Dybvig-Pawelko seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

6. Status of New School Project

Senneville updated the Board on the status of new school. Options were discussed for maintaining the agreement on the land; Senneville relayed Elliott’s perspective. The Board agreed to commit to best efforts executed by April 30, and offering sufficiently attractive payment to the seller. McGregor suggested that FA offer that the earnest money be nonrefundable.

Board authorized Ferris to work with Elliott on managing the land deal, including offering up to \$15,000 in negotiations to extend the deadline on full payment for the property.

Dybvig-Pawelko put forth for consideration the purchase of the building currently housing the Kindergarten, instead of the new building for the K-6. The Board discussed options. Senneville referred to the potential revenue of a future online school, as supportive of the elementary school project. Dybvig-Pawelko mentioned local schools, market competition, and asserted the benefits of overall small school. All agreed that FA’s small size fits its educational philosophy, and that the scale of the new school would enable the sense of community to be maintained easily.

7. Adjournment.

No further business needed addressing. Tribbensee moved to adjourn to the meeting; Dybvig-Pawelko seconded. By a unanimous vote, the motion to adjourn was approved.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2013. (The Board discussed an agreeable regular schedule for future meetings, and determined the second Wednesday of each month to work well for most.)