APPROVED Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2026
Meeting Called to Order: 5:20PM
Attendance:
Present: Matthew Nittoly ,Kevin Forget, Anne Dichele, Deborah Whalen, Jessica Vonashek, Amanda Magnusson, Amariz Videz, Nichole S, James Martinez Adam Norris, Paul Viscontini, Nell Conroy
Absent: Steph Nichole Shagoury, Larry, Kim

Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

- March meeting notes approved. (Motion: Deborah Whalen, second: Paul Viscontini)
    - Note made to add list of all members present/absent rather than just list that "all present"

Director's Update – Matthew Nittoly

- The school's seventh-grade interdisciplinary unit focused on Long Island Sound and water pollution, with students researching native plants and designing a rain garden.
- Important dates shared: lottery for the 2026–27 school year is tomorrow at 5 PM, last day of school is June 22, and eighth-grade graduation is June 18 at 6 PM.
- Budget work is starting, with the Finance Committee reviewing a draft and board questions expected by email before the next meeting.

Financial Report – Adam Norris

- The final state grant installment was received on April 1 and will show in next month's report.
- State funding revenue is still being recognized and should drop to zero by year-end.
- IT consultant expenses have not yet been billed, so that balance keeps increasing.
- Major expense variances came from teacher staffing, substitute coverage, employee benefits, snow plowing, playground mulch, and instructional supplies.
- The bottom line is about $30K favorable to budget year-to-date, with a projected year-end loss better than originally budgeted.

Fundraising Update – Deborah Whalen

- The International Light fundraiser has had slower-than-expected sign-ups, and the group is considering whether to cancel it or replace it with a smaller social event like an ice cream social.
- Fundraising issue is mostly about school culture and rebuilding parent/staff engagement after COVID, not a lack of interest from families.

- For the gala, the group agreed to start thinking about venues and timing now for a spring event next year, with about 100 attendees as a rough target.
    - Potential venue ideas included the Platform rooftop, the Cove, the Gallagher Mansion/Cranberry Park, DoubleTree, and other local spaces.
- Anne noted that a new school video is being explored with a university student, likely in the fall.
- Kevin proposed a Bartaco Spirit Night fundraiser in June, with 10% of checks going back to the school; the board liked the idea and chose Tuesdays in June.
- Paul said he is still exploring a possible 5K fundraiser, likely in the fall or winter.

Meeting adjourned at 6: PM (Motion: Deborah Whalen 2nd : Adam Norris)
Next Meeting: May 26 (REMOTE))
Agenda for 5:30pm 5/26/26 (REMOTE):
Roll Call
Public Session
Call to Order
Review/Approval of April Meeting Minutes
New Business
Director's Update
Finance Committee
Fundraising Update
International Night Presentation