



Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

www.akfcs.org

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 / 6:30 p.m.

https://akfcs-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XXIFuvnrSZmF6yomh4C2hQ

- I. Call to Order Celia Blue, Chair
- II. Attendance Recorded
- III. Faithfulness to Charter
 - a. Reading of the AKF Mission; “The Mission of the Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing a classical liberal arts education grounded in the great works of Western Civilization and aimed at academic excellence, musical competence and character formation.”
 - b. Public Comments / Open Forum
 - c. Old Business
- IV. Review of the Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2020 and October 22, 2020
 - a. **Motion:** To accept the meeting minutes from September 23, 2020.
 - b. **Motion:** To accept the meeting minutes from October 22, 2020.
- V. Plans for increasing the number of students in school
 - a. Elementary School only at this time (K-3)
 - b. Beginning the week of November 2nd
- VI. Board/Committee Updates
 - a. Education Committee- Ms. Yarnie
 - b. Educational Foundation- Ms. Zabage-Ndiku
 - c. Facilities and Finance- Mr. Royce
 - i. **Motion:** To accept the FY’20 audit as presented by AAFCPAs.
 - d. DEI Committee Update- Ms. Blue
 - e. Strategic Plan update- Ms. Blue
- VII. Executive Director Position Discussion
 - a. Motion: To select an Executive Search firm.
- VIII. Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings
 - a. **Education Committee:** Thursday, November 12th / 7:45 a.m.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



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- b. **Facilities and Finance Committee:** Friday, November 20th / 8:00 a.m.
- c. **Board of Trustees:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 / 6:30 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

- a. **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.



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The meeting was Called to Order by Celia Blue, Board Chair at 6:33 p.m.

Attendance Recorded (see attached list)

Board: Celia Blue, Patrick Royce, Randy Schmid, Jie Park, Bibiche Zagabe-Ndiku

Board Members not present: Shelly Yarnie

To support faithfulness to the AKF Charter Ms. Blue read the AKF Mission statement. There were no public comments and there was no old business.

Ms. Blue shared with the Board an update from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DE&I). The Committee is conducting check-ins with staff and families when they can. Ms. Blue asked for the check-in question to be shared with the meeting participants to provide feedback to the DE&I Committee on how staff and families were doing at this time.

Ms. Blue asked the board to review of the Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2020 and October 22, 2020. She then asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 23, 2020. Mr. Royce made that motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved. Ms. Blue then asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from October 22, 2020. Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the motion, Mr. Royce seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Paluk shared with the Board the Elementary School's plans for increasing the number of students in school. Using the Hybrid Model, the Maroon Group will come into school on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Gold Group will come into school on Thursdays and Fridays.

At the Middle and High Schools students with high needs and who are having difficulty with the remote learning model will be encouraged to come to the school for in person learning beginning the week of November 9th. The Middle and High Schools will re-evaluate their plans in December for a possible increase in students coming into school in January.

Ms. Paluk shared with the Board that there had been one case of CoVID in the Elementary School which resulted in 12 people having to be quarantined. At this time there have been no additional cases. The

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School used the communications plan laid out, and those who needed to be notified were.

Moving to the Board/Committee Updates, Ms. Blue began with the Education Committee. Ms. Yarnie, Chair of the Committee was not able to attend the meeting and Ms. Blue briefly summarized the last meeting for the Committee and referenced the Committee's meeting minutes.

Ms. Zabage-Ndiku shared with the Board the Educational Foundation is moving forward with the Foundation status change and looking forward to some fundraising efforts this fall.

The Facilities and Finance chaired by Mr. Royce asked Ms. Blue to call for a Motion to accept the FY'20 audit as presented by AAFCPAs. Following the previous meeting on October 22nd where the Board was presented with the audit. Mr. Schmid noted that he was disappointed that the stale accounts brought up last year were not addressed and appeared as a note on this year's audit again. Ms. Paluk said she and Ms. Carpino were working on a plan to clean those accounts up. Ms. Blue then called for the motion to accept the audit. Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the motion to accept the audit. Ms. Park seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the audit.

Ms. Blue and Ms. Paluk discussed the Strategic Plan which is coming up to a larger review in 2022. Mr. Royce brought up past conversations about increasing our enrollment, per the Strategic Plan. This is something the Board, Ms. Paluk and Admin Council need to review and discuss further.

Ms. Blue then began to discuss the search firms the Board had reached out to for the Executive Director search. Ms. Blue and Mr. Royce had reached out for resources they had used in the Interim Executive Director search. The firms that submitted proposals to Ms. Blue and Mr. Royce were Promise54, EOS Transition Partners and DiversifiedSearch.

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposals. It was determined that the DiversifiedSearch proposal was not going to fit with the Board's needs. Further discussions led to the Board deciding to reach out to Promise54 and EOS to have additional conversations. Ms. Park agreed to also join those conversations.

The costs of the firms were noted (\$10,000-\$42,000), additional review of client lists was requested, a percentage or just an update on the searches these firms completed last year and a look at whether those appointments were still in the role was also requested by members of the Board. The Board was

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interested in looking at these firms to see what their staff diversity was, whether they had been successful in bringing minority and ethnically diverse candidates to their clients.

Ms. Blue suggested the Board not take a vote to decide on a search firm at this meeting, but instead plan a meeting for Thursday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m. to review the additional information they are able to obtain.

Ms. Blue noted the upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

- a. **Education Committee:** Thursday, November 12th / 7:45 a.m.
- b. **Facilities and Finance Committee (being changed to a BoT Meeting):**
Friday, November 20th / 8:00 a.m.
- c. **Board of Trustees:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 / 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Blue asked for motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Royce made motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Zagabe-Ndiku made the motion. The Board approved the motion and adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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