

**KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2015
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Dr. John Nazarian, Ms. Debra Deion, Ms. Anne Kuzminsky, Ms. Linda Paolillo, Dr. Lionel Murray, Ms. Helen Morcos and Ms. Lorraine Melillo

Members Absent: Dr. June Groden, Ms. Anne Considine, Ms. Lisa Davis, Ms. Johnna Bicknell and Mr. Rob Raposo

Recording Secretary: Ms. Linda Ollari

Dr. Nazarian called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2015 and April 7, 2015 Meetings

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2015 and April 7, 2015 Board meetings. The motion was made (Dr. Murray), was seconded (Ms. Melillo) and passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

None

Ms. Paolillo informed the Board that a participant for one of the Executive Sessions on the agenda would need to leave by 6:00 p.m. Prior to convening Executive Session, all persons affected were notified in advance in writing and advised that they could require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. There being no such request, Ms. Deion made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records, pursuant to R.I.Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(8). Ms. Kuzminsky seconded the motion. The Board members were polled individually, all members were in favor of entering Executive Session and the motion passed unanimously.

Upon conclusion of discussion of matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(8), Dr. Murray made a motion to close Executive Session and return to Open Session. Ms. Deion seconded the motion, the Board members were polled individually, all members were in favor of closing the executive session and returning to open session and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Murray made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Ms. Deion seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Murray made a motion that a policy be developed and put into place to address classroom disruptions. Ms. Deion seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. CEO Report – Helen Morcos

a. Financial Report

Ms. Morcos distributed the finance report for nine months ending March 31, 2015 reflecting a deficit of \$78,961.

b. Status of Water Upgrade

An application was filed with the South Kingstown Zoning Board to construct a small building addition to house a water storage tank; the application will be addressed at the June 17, 2015 Zoning Board meeting. A representative of the Office of Drinking Water Quality recommended that KHA's water system improvements be designed to serve 260 students (the number of students in the Charter), even though the school building cannot accommodate that number of students unless a building expansion took place, which is not currently planned, but if that expansion took place in the future, the water system should be adequate to serve 260 students.

The Picerne housing development proposed on a neighboring property could be bringing in town water close to the KHA property, but it's unknown if and when that would happen.

c. RIDE Hearing About Complaint from North Kingstown

North Kingstown School Department submitted a request to RIDE for a hearing on revoking or suspending Kingston Hill Academy's approved expansion based on noncompliance with the state Department of Health's order regarding the water system. A pre-hearing conference is scheduled for May 19th.

d. Amendment to Form 990

In November 2012, KHA changed its governance structure by creating a new Board of Trustees. Prior to that change, KHA had been governed by a board, whose members also served as directors of the Groden Center. Drs. June and Gerald Groden retired in April of 2012. The Groden Board hired a consultant to determine if the compensation the Grodens had received in their 35 plus years at The Groden Center had been fair. The findings showed that the Grodens had been underpaid. The Groden Board voted on a lump sum payment to the Grodens and a percentage was to be paid from each Corporation within the Groden Network. KHA paid \$93,500; however, the actual payment was made after the KHA Board of Trustees was established. Also, since KHA was not established until 2001 and the Groden Center was established in 1976. KHA's share should have been less than the other Groden corporations. The Groden Board passed a resolution to return \$93,500 to KHA. Page 7 of the 990 for 2012-2013 was amended.

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to receive the reports given by Helen Morcos. The motion was made (Ms. Deion), was seconded (Dr. Murray) and passed unanimously.

4. Principal's Report – Ms. Linda Paolillo

a. 2015-2016 School Calendar

Ms. Paolillo met with Drew Allsopp at RIDE to discuss changing the length of KHA's school day by 15-20 minutes which would allow KHA to follow a more typical school year calendar. Ms. Paolillo recommended this change be delayed to the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Paolillo distributed a draft of the 2015-2016 calendar with 185 days from August 26, 2015 – June 13, 2016. Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to receive the 2015-2016 school calendar. The motion was made (Ms. Kuzminsky), was seconded (Ms. Melillo) and passed unanimously.

b. Parent Handbook Review

Ms. Kuzminsky voiced concerns regarding the Title 9 policy. Ms. Paolillo requested that the Board members review the draft and send suggested changes/updates to her.

c. Grade Level Configuration

KHA's expected enrollment for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year is currently at 189. It was suggested that a committee be formed to explore grade level configurations for future years.

5. Executive Session

Dr. Murray made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss matters which relate to litigation strategy with respect to North Kingstown claim pending before RIDE, pursuant to R.I.Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(2). Ms. Melillo seconded the motion. The Board members were polled individually; all were in favor of entering Executive Session and the motion passed unanimously.

Upon conclusion of discussion of matters which relate to litigation strategy with respect to North Kingstown claim pending before RIDE, pursuant to R.I.Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(2), Ms. Kuzminsky made a motion to close Executive Session and return to Open Session. Dr. Murray seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Murray made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Ms. Deion seconded the motion, the Board members were polled individually and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

Dr. Nazarian announced that he will not be continuing on the KHA Board after his term expires this year. Ms. Morcos thanked Dr. Nazarian for his commitment to KHA and for his excellent leadership.

The motion to adjourn was made (Ms. Deion), was seconded (Ms. Melillo), and passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next meeting date: June 24, 2015

Public Contact Information:

Linda Ollari

401-274-6310

lollari@grocenter.org