

DRAFT UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

NEW HAMPSHIRE EQUESTRIAN ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

March 2, 2007
6:00 p.m.
60 Farmington Road, Rochester

Present: Joseph Guadagno, Chair; Board members: Paul Bernard, W. Packy Campbell, Grant Myhre.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Guadagno called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m., acknowledging that a quorum was present.

II. Reports

The Chairman reviewed correspondences received including a request from staff to make up missed days on Saturdays, a parent for a Parent Advisory Council, academic space for next year, and other matters. Board members offered suggestions with regard to the report but no actions were taken.

6:15 p.m. board member Meredith Wiles arrives.

III. Approval of minutes from February 20, 2007: Motion by Paul/2nd Campbell: To approve the minutes from February 20, 2007. Passed. Unanimous.

IV. Facility issues at 100 Ten Rod Road

Member Meredith Wiles was working with member Georgene Sellinger to develop an appropriate plan for parents and students to stay at the facility on weeknights. Issues needing review are costs, fees, supervision, insurance, use of kitchen and utilities. Paul suggested behavioral guidelines related to any overnight use. A renter agreement model was mentioned. Meredith agreed to continue to work on the issue.

The board began to address the issue of the possibility of Saturday school and meeting the 180-day attendance requirement. Joe indicated that he had not gathered all of the legal facts on the issue. Paul added that due to the fact that these students do not have bus service that parents needed to be part of the discussion. Meredith added that we also needed to consider the issue of student absences on the added days and what responsibility there would be for make-up work. Joe seconded the concern about offering school on Saturdays and not assuring attendance. Meredith suggested that parent communication be through mail and not only through students.

Paul Bernard made request to financial reports of the New Hampshire Equestrian Academy.

The discussion turned to the urgent need for a facility. Packy offered a potential solution in Rochester and an alternative solution of an addition to the equestrian studies facility. A “condo-gift” arrangement could offer a more stable home for the school. Packy agreed to follow up on both proposals including making another visit to the site at 100 Ten Rod Road. Packy excused himself at 6:45 p.m.

Paul mentioned that if the RSA construction company owned by board member Packy Cambell were to do a construction project for the NHEqA that there would be no conflict of interest as long as there was full disclosure. He continued to press that the issue of building a facility would take time and that this board should focus on a lease for next year. All board members present were in agreement on this point.

Meredith mentioned a commercial rental. Renovations would be required. Paul offered that there are skilled parents that could be solicited to contribute to any renovation / construction project.

The chair moved to agenda item 5 and began a discussion of public funding and local districts. The Chair shared the progress on the billing template for student’s home districts and the need for follow up with parents. The conversation quickly turned to fundraising and the need for more of it. There was discussion of a bake sale poster and student initiative to raise money at the vet technician conference. That money was incorporated in the student snack fund. Grant offered that he recognized the students for their initiative. Paul included that every little bit counts and the \$5, \$10, \$15 add up sighting his families experience with the student snack program. Paul also mentioned that his daughter was writing a letter about her experience at the charter school as one way to increase awareness.

Agenda item 6 on the agenda was discussed based on the information provided in the email from Superintendent Hollins.

Agenda item 7 policies were brought to discussion. **Motion by Paul/2nd Meredith: To adopt the third party fundraising plan as presented.** Discussion include the a necessity for all fundraising involving students and their families be on a volunteer basis and that no person should be required or that duty be implied to participate in fundraising activities. There was brief discussion about the sale of candy and that its sale not be targeted to students. **Passed. Unanimous**

The chair indicated that the computer policy was forthcoming and that the school was in need of such a policy. Meredith brought to the attention of the board that cyber controls on computers did not allow students to internet access at home. Paul said if school laptops were owned by parents they should have the administrative codes.

The May fundraising event was reviewed and a progress report was provided by Grant, Joe brought the attention of the board to the fundraising plan and sited this event as one of 4 major annual events. He suggested a goal of \$100,000.00. Grant thought a goal of \$25,000.00 was a reasonable for the event.

The founding organization, The Alliance for Equine Studies, was discussed vis-à-vis school horses and maintaining horses. Grant gave details about the 501c that had \$8,000.00 that was being used for the May event and could be used for an horse care. Need and costs for maintaining one or more horses were not clear. Grant indicated that the clinical rounds with the students were going very well.

The Chair pressed the issue to allocate the proceeds from the May fundraising events for facility expenditures for the school. The discussion moved back and forth about priorities for the funds. **Motion by Meredith/2nd Paul: To allocate 2/3 of the funds from the May event for facility needs.** Discussion included the urgent need for facility funding. Grant mentioned that an ad was being run to increase awareness. **Passed. Unanimous**

V. Next Meeting

The Board is considering a next meeting noon, Tuesday, April 3rd, 2006. At 6:00 p.m.

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Guadagno