

# The Compass School

## July 12, 2016 Meeting of the School Council

### Minutes

Meeting Location: The Compass School, 537 Old North Road, Kingston,  
RI 02881

Date and Time of Meeting: July 12, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susannah Strong (SS), Marisa Gallagher (MG), Fritz  
Lanz (FL), Rachel Axelson (RA), Nicole Gardner (NG)  
Polly Cuddy (PC) Heidi Vazquez (HV) Linsey Trombino  
(LT) Michelle Salisbury (MS)

Others Present: Brandee Lapiskey (BL), Evan Preisser (EP), Nicole Saulan  
(NS), Amy Henderson- Crane (AC) Elisa Lucia (EL)  
entered at 6:17

Presiding Officer: SS

1. **Call to Order: Susannah Strong, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Adoption of Consent Agenda**
  - a. **Discussion/vote to approve Consent Agenda (including agenda of this meeting)**

*RA motions to adopt the consent agenda.*

*NG seconds*

*Discussion: Director suggests tabling 8c until September.*

*HV motions to adopt the consent agenda with the omission of agenda item 8c.*

*RA seconds*

*Vote to adopt the consent agenda with the omission of agenda item 8c.*

*In Favor: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes.*

Pending Open Meeting 7.12.16

**4. Approval of Minutes (3 minutes)**

**a. Discussion/ vote to approve open session minutes from June 14, 2016**

*RA motions to approve the open session minutes for June 14, 2016*

*NG seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve the open session minutes for June 14, 2016*

*In favor: 9                      Opposed: 0                      Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes.*

**b. Discussion/vote to approve executive session minutes from June 14, 2016**

*HV motions to approve executive session minutes from June 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm and 8:45 pm*

*RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none.*

*Vote to approve the executive session minutes from June 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm and 8:45 pm*

*In favor:            9            Opposed: 0            Abstain:*

*Motion Passes.*

**c. Discussion/vote to approve budget meeting minutes from June 24, 2016**

*RA motions to approve Budget meeting minutes from June 24, 2016*

*NG seconds.*

*Discussion: none.*

*Vote to approve Budget meeting minutes from June 24, 2016*

*In favor:            8            Opposed: 0            Abstain: 1*

*Motion Passes.*

**5. Director's Report (5 minutes)**

**a. Discussion/vote to accept Director's Report**

*RA motions to accept the director's report*

*PC seconds.*

*Discussion: none.*

*Vote to approve accept the director's report*

*In favor:            9            Opposed: 0            Abstain: 0*

*Motion Passes.*

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**6. Director's Performance Evaluation (5 min)**

- a. Discussion/vote to accept Joe Battaglia's performance evaluation of the director.**

*HV motions to accept Joe Battaglia's performance evaluation of the director  
RA seconds.*

*Discussion: Council didn't yet receive the full report yet.*

*HV motions to table performance evaluation of the director until September.*

*MR seconds*

*Vote to table performance evaluation of the director until September.*

*In favor: 8                      Opposed: 0                      Abstain: 1*

*Motion Passes.*

**7. New Teacher Appointments**

- a. .4 Art teacher: Tala Wunderler-Selby**

- i. Discussion/Vote to appoint**

*HV motions to appoint Tala Wunderler-Selby to the .4 Art Teacher position  
RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to appoint Tala Wunderler-Selby to the .4 Art Teacher position*

*In favor: 9                      Opposed: 0                      Abstain: 0*

*Motion Passes.*

- b. One-year only: .3 STEAM teacher: Hilary Downes-Fortune**

- i. Discussion/Vote to appoint**

*MS motions to appoint Hilary Downes-Fortune to the one-year only: .3 STEAM position  
RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to appoint Hilary Downes-Fortune to the one-year only: .3 STEAM position*

*In favor: 9                      Opposed: 0                      Abstain: 0*

*Motion Passes.*

- b. .8 Navigator Teacher Assistant: Brittany Benedetti**

- i. Discussion/Vote to appoint**

*MS motions to appoint Brittany Benedetti to the .8 Navigator Teacher Assistant  
RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to appoint Brittany Benedetti to the .8 Navigator Teacher Assistant*

*In favor: 9                      Opposed: 0                      Abstain: 0*

*Motion Passes.*

- c. One-year only: .5 Special Education teacher: Courtney SanGiovanni**

- i. Discussion/Vote to appoint**

*MS motions to appoint Courtney SanGiovanni for a one-year only .5 Special Education teacher  
RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none.*

*Vote to appoint Courtney SanGiovanni for a one-year only .5 Special Education teacher*

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*In favor: 9            Opposed: 0            Abstain: 0*  
*Motion Passes.*

**d. One-year only: .3 Special Education Director Transition Facilitator: Michelle Clifford**

*MS motions to appoint Michelle Clifford for a one- year only .3 Special Education Director Transition Facilitator*

*RA seconds.*

*Discussion: none.*

*Vote to appoint Michelle Clifford for a one- year only .3 Special Education Director Transition Facilitator*

*In favor: 9            Opposed: 0            Abstain: 0*  
*Motion Passes.*

**8. New Council Members and Roles (15 min)**

**a. Official commencement and welcoming of new parent representative**

**b. Vote in new executive officers**

*SS nominates RA to be council president.*

*RA accepts nomination.*

*Vote to elect RA as council president for 2016-2017 school year.*

*In favor: 8    Opposed: 0    Abstain: 1*

*Motion passes.*

*MS nominates SS to be vice president.*

*SS accepts nomination.*

*Vote to elect SS as council vice president for 2016-2017 school year.*

*In favor: 8    Opposed: 0    Abstain: 1*

*Motion passes.*

*HV nominates LT to be secretary*

*LT accepts nomination.*

*Vote to elect LT as secretary LT for 2016-2017 school year.*

*In favor: 8    Opposed: 0    Abstain: 1*

*Motion passes.*

*SS nominates MS to be treasurer*

*MS accepts nomination.*

*Vote to elect MS as treasurer for 2016-2017 school year.*

*In favor: 8    Opposed: 0    Abstain: 1*

*Motion passes.*

**c. Vote in new committee chairs**

- i. Finance
- ii. Policy
- iii. Site
- iv. Development

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- v. Health/Wellness/Safety
- vi. Learning

In consent agenda, this was tabled until the September 2016 meeting.

**9. Attorney General Rulings (5 min)**

Complaint was filed about public access to records during 2014-2015 school year. We are awaiting to hear whether the school will be fined for this violation.

**10. Discussion Council Training: RI Open Government Summit (5 min)**

SS reminded council members to attend or watch the RI Open Government Summit on July 29, 2016

**11. Special Program: Strategic Updates Review - led by Tom Enrich**

Tom was unable to attend. BL and SS presented and led a discussion to reflect and determine next steps for our strategic plan.

- a. **Strategic Plan Check In: p. 8**
- b. **Awareness of External Factors: State of Charters**
- c. [FY17 Draft Initiatives: Objectives and Milestones](#)
- e. **Discussion/vote to endorse the FY17 initiatives**

*MS motions to endorse the FY17 Initiatives.*

*NG seconds.*

*Discussion: Council has authorized the director to move ahead with action plans presented on Facilities Lifecycle: new construction and model garden, Development, Blended Learning, and Charter Renewal.*

*Vote to endorse the FY17 initiatives*

*In favor: 9    Opposed: 0    Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes.*

**12. New Business**

None

**13. Public Comment**

None

Meeting is adjourned 8:17 pm

The public is welcome to any meeting of the School Council or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact the Student Service Coordinator, Julie Wynsen at (401) 788-8322 at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting.

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Any changes in the agenda will be posted on The Compass School's website and place of business, and will be electronically filed with the secretary of state at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

### Director's Report

Provided By: Brandee Lapisky, M.Ed.

Submitted on: 7/7/2016

Council meeting date: 7/12/2016

### Enrollment

The enrollment tallies below are updated as of 7/7/2016.

Step Levels	Grade	Enrollment (Actual by grade)	Enrollment (Actual by step)
Explorers	K	17	34
	1	17	
Adventurers	2	19	19
Discoverers	3	19	38
	4	19	
Investigators	5	18	38
	6	20	
Navigators	7	18	36
	8	18	
Total Enrollment	K-8	165	165

\*Note that we are awaiting seat confirmations from a handful of families at this time. We expect that we will achieve our enrollment target of 168.

### Strategic Plan Updates

Charter Renewal:

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- On June 27, 2016 Paula Barney from RIDE provided me with the [Draft Charter Renewal Report](#) from the site visit in April.
- On June 28, 2016, Brandee met with Paula Barney, Nicole Smith, and Brian Darrow from RIDE to review the report and discuss next steps.
- Next steps include:
  - Drafting a bylaws revision re: Save the Bay seat on Council
  - Providing factual corrections to the charter renewal report
  - Meeting with Matt Plain regarding the new charter form
  - Complete the charter form and return to the charter renewal office by July
  - Name The Council of Elementary and Secondary Education as additional insured on the Compass D&O policy
- The plan is to have both The Compass School and Blackstone Valley Academy before the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education for a renewal discussion recommendation in early fall.

## Development:

- On July 12, 2016, a representative from the Kimball Foundation will be present at Compass to meet with Brandee and any interested parties from Council. They are responding to our \$25,000 request for capital funding for barn renovations.
- We received an inquiry and request for further documentation from the Champlin Foundation, who is responding to another \$25,000 request for capital funding for barn renovations.

## Blended Learning

- FUSE Meeting: On June 21, 2016, Brandee met with Laura Jackson from Highlander Institute/FUSE and Heidi Vazquez to discuss the FUSE program and Compass' potential involvement as a district school for next year. Below are main points from a follow up email that Laura sent the next day:
  - Thank you again for taking the time to meet this morning. I left feeling very excited about a possible partnership with Compass through Fuse.
  - It was apparent to me that you have prioritized this work at the leadership level and you have growing momentum among your faculty and some *really* interesting projects in the pipeline (adding flexibility in the schedule, creating content-based electives and expeditions, designing a new physical space).
  - To recap what we talked about:
    - As a Fuse district you would receive the support of two Fuse Fellows for two academic years (SY16-17 & SY17-18).
    - Each Fellow would have 5 out-of-district days to support the work at Compass (for a total of 20 days over two years).
    - Their work would be focused on developing a vision for blended and personalized learning in the Compass middle grades, identifying early adopters, and supporting those teachers to create model classrooms.

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- The specific work would certainly be tailored to your priorities and could include administrator support.
- In exchange for this support, Compass would agree to:
  - Complete the District Readiness Survey
  - Participate in classroom walkthroughs
  - Complete periodic 360 assessments of your Fellows
  - Share de-identified interim student learning data
  - We are planning to finalize our list of Year 3 Fuse districts by mid-July, so you can expect to hear back from us within a few weeks.
- 
- Buzz Training: Brandee, Heidi Vazquez and perhaps additional staff members will attend a blended learning training on July 8, 2016.
- REAP Grant:
  - With the remaining funds from the REAP grant, we purchased enough Chromebooks to go 1:1 for Discoverers through Navigators and Chrome carts to store them in.
  - We are awaiting news from RIDE as we *may* qualify for additional funding, but this remains to be seen at this time.
  - There was not enough funding at this time to purchase iPads for the Adventurers. Given that all of the Discoverers, Investigators and Navigators will be 1:1 with Chromebooks, the proposal is that the Adventurers will be the keepers of the school's ipad collection. When other steps wish to use those devices, they will sign them out from Polly.

### Facilities Lifecycle:

- Current Facilities:
  - Arthur Smith installed downspouts on all of the main building gutters and also cleaned all main building gutters.
  - Triumph repaired the new modular roof leak again on July 2, 2016.
- New construction:
  - Brandee will submit a Letter of Intent to RIDE for new construction on July 11, 2016.
  - [Timeline and process chart](#)

### Curriculum Redesign:

- On July 7, 2016, proposal requests went out to staff for summer planning stipends under the theme of “Share Here (Compass), Share There (with Districts), Share Everywhere (with our broader community).



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- Teachers have an opportunity to submit for up to 3 hours of professional development time at the rate of \$25 per hour, which totals the \$1,000 reserved for a summer professional development stipend from the FY17 budget.
- If not all teachers take advantage of proposal submission by the 7/16/16 proposal deadline, their hours will be offered to those who have already submitted proposals.
- Investigator teachers are prepared to launch the elective pilot in Fall 2016.

## Other Topics

### 2016-17 Staff Search Updates:

- Business Manager: The business manager search committee has 3 viable applications and will proceed with interviews scheduled on July 18, 2016.
- Teaching Positions:
  - Council will vote on the candidates for the following positions on July 12, 2016: Art, Navigator TA, Special Education, Special Education Director Transition
  - Still in process: Explorer Teacher Assistant as Emily Campbell shared her letter of resignation in late June.

### Legislative Updates

- State Budget: The Governor signed the state budget into law on June 28, 2016. The priority aspects impacting Compass include:
  - Article 11 and bill H-7454: These indicate that districts may withhold the difference of the unique expenditures or 7% of the local share, whichever is greater.
  - Recess Mandate: Public elementary schools grades K-6 are required to offer 20 consecutive minutes of supervised, safe and unstructured free play recess each day. They state that play increases learning outcomes for students. It adds that teachers may supervise, but recess should not be structured. In regards to withholding recess, the bill states, "Teachers shall make a good faith effort not to withhold recess for punitive reasons."

### League of Charter Schools

- [Letter to the Executive Committee of the League of Charter Schools](#): Brandee co-authored this letter to the League of Charter Schools in response to the process surrounding the H-7454 vote.

### Budget

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- The Compass School's budget has been submitted to RIDE per the June 30, 2016 submission deadline.
- We will resubmit a revised budget once RIDE releases the actual local share information, which they have yet to post.

## Community Outreach

- Main St. Resources: Brandee continues to nurture the relationship with Main St. Resources and met with Dan Levinson on June 22, 2016. Their goal is to establish a school garden in every Rhode Island School.
  - Based on the networking that we have done at Compass, he is proposing that Compass be the School Garden Resource Center for Rhode Island.
  - His organization has done this work in Connecticut already. Common Ground High School is their charter school showcase in CT. More information can be found at their website: <http://commongroundct.org/>
  - Main St. Resources is proposing that the Garden Center be a showcase garden for food sustainability and children's play. It would include an outdoor classroom. Their organization would fund the project if given the green light from Council.
  - The idea would be that The Compass School Garden would become an attraction where other schools would take field trips to the space to become inspired and then use that information and the resources to build their own gardens.
- InSpirited Living: Lynne Phipps, Compass founder, has established a new organization called [InSpirited Living](#). At her invitation, Brandee attended a dinner for community leaders for activating peace in our community.
- Environmental Literacy Summit: Brandee will be a panelist at the Environmental Literacy Summit held at Rhode Island College on July 13th - 15th.
- RIDE's "Open Doors Teacher Conference": Drew Virbila and Nikki Gardiner will co-present about project-based learning at this conference on October 29, 2016.

## PARCC

- Timeline for 2016 Results:
  - Brandee will receive embargoed data on August 8, 2016.
  - RIDE will host a pre-release meeting for superintendents on August 15, 2016.
  - The PARCC scores by school/district will go public on August 22, 2016.
  - Schools will receive individual student score reports by August 24, 2016.

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- Planning for the 2016 Compass release:
  - Brandee will host 2 more “Test Talk with Ms. Brandee” events in September - one in the evening, one during the day modeling last year’s release process.
  - New to this year, I’ll have the student-specific score reports in hand to deliver at those meetings.
  - Those who are not able to attend the meeting will receive their student’s info by backpack the next day.

## STEAM

- Given that Compass Council has committed to a STEAM position (that will include some coding), we are now eligible for funding for professional development through RIDE. Funding stipend opportunities will be posted on the CS4RI website starting in July.
- Hilary Downes-Fortune attended a week-long 3D printing workshop with Fab Newport, which culminated in acquiring a 3D printer for the school.

## The RIDE Advanced Course Network (ACN)

- [Advance Course Network Website Link](#)
- RIDE approached Brandee about becoming a member of the ACN earlier in the 2015-16 school year, but Brandee messaged that the school community was at capacity with other initiatives (like charter renewal) at the time.
- Nevertheless, this is something that we should set our sights on for participation in the 2017-18 school year. This opportunity could fall nicely into the elective structure we’ve created for the 2016-17 school year.
- In the 2018-2019 school year, we may want to consider becoming a Course provider.

## Treasurer’s Report

Thursday, June 16, 2016 - Reviewed end of the year expenses; examined the FY 2017 budget; discussed implications of the new proposed (expected to pass) budget from the state house; reviewed newly revised staff contract template which include much more details about a staff members status (years of service/step level at Compass and compensation - salary, benefits, etc.).

## Health and Safety Committee

No report

## Policy Committee

No report

## Learning Committee Committee

No report

## Development Committee

No report

## Site Committee

No report