

# The Compass School

## October 11, 2016 Meeting of the School Council Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting: October 11, 2016 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marisa Gallagher (MG), Rachel Axelson (RA), Nicole Gardner (NG), Linsey Trombino (LT), Nicole Saulan (NS), Evan Pressier (EP)

Others Present: Brandee Lapiskey (BL), Mike Commendatore (MC), Kristen Kardos (KK)

Presiding Officer: RA

1. Call to Order: Rachel Axelson, Council President, calls the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Consent Agenda
  - a. Discussion/vote to approve Consent Agenda (including agenda of this meeting)

*RA entertains a motions to adopt the consent agenda.*

*NG so moved*

*LT seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve consent agenda*

*In favor: 6            Opposed: 0            Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

4. Approval of minutes (2 minutes)

- a. Discussion/vote to approve minutes from 9.13.16

*RA entertains a motion to approve the open session minutes for September 13, 2016*

*NG so moved*

*NS seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve the open session minutes for September 13, 2016*

*In favor: 6      Opposed: 0      Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

5. Director's Report (10 minutes)

- a. Discussion/vote to approve the Director's Report

*BL reviewed the Director's report and invited questions. There were not any questions.*

*RA entertains a motion to approve the Director's Report*

*LT so moved*

*NS seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve the Director's Report*

*In favor: 6      Opposed: 0      Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

6. [Science NECAP Data Presentation](#) (7 minutes)

*BL Science NECAP is based on grade span expectations. The assessment has not caught up with the standards that are being used. BL gave a presentation on how Compass performed on the Science NECAP in 2016. The Compass 4th grade came in as 3rd school in the state. The 8th grade performed low in comparison to our 4th grade. BL presented possible causes and solutions in the gap.*

7. Budget Amendment (15 minutes)

- a. Discussion/vote to approve budget amendment

*BL Proposed that we restore our development position to \$20,000 and also looking into facility lifecycle investment. BL recommends that it the proposed spending for the transportation savings tabled now and that revisit it November. Lattner funding must to be used for specific mission-based program development. The idea is that we should put it into the Compass Farm. BL gave a breakdown for how to spend the grant. One idea is the Farm Launch Director position that would work with Main Street who*

*will match the funding to support this position. BL is recommending to hire both candidates for Farm Director.*

*RA entertains a motion to approve the budget amendment FY 2017*

*NS so moved*

*MG seconds*

*Discussion: RA Any discussion on the REAP grant - NS would that also include the Art teacher? BL it can not because it can only go to benefit of the students.*

*Vote to approve the 25, 000 Lattner Grant to Compass School Farm part of the budget amendment.*

*In favor: 6      Opposed: 0      Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

## 8. [Strategic Plan Revisit](#) (15 minutes)

### a. Review/prioritize action items

*BL discussion to green light some of the sections of the strategic plan.*

*Green lighted: Develop a friends of Compass Network, Feasibility Study, Application (Stage 1), First stage of Staffing, Blended Learning all, All of STEAM, All Elective Program, Assessment, Math achievement*

*NG vote bigger picture instead of looking at only 1 year. Holding the vision for a sustain amount of time.*

*BL STEAM - by March we need to make a decision on if we are going to keep the .3 position because the contract is written one year only.*

## 9. Charter Renewal (5 minutes)

### b. Charter form

#### i. Discussion/vote to endorse the Charter Form

#### ii. Timeline for Charter Renewal Process

*BL Every school that goes through Charter Renewal will come out with a Charter form. Council should know what this form says to keep up to date for when the next charter renewal happens again.*

*RA entertains a motion to endorse the Charter Form*

*NG so moved*

*NS seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve the Charter Form*

*In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

10. Policy (5 minutes)

- a. Discussion/vote to approve [Transgender Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

*NS Meet beginning of September. Looked at the policy made it more compass friendly. Matt Plain reviewed.*

*RA entertains a motion to approve and discuss Transgender Non - Discrimination Policy*

*NG so moved*

*NS seconds*

*Discussion: EP it means a tremendous amount to support the students/student who are going through this change at this beginning years. This speaks volumes to the community and support that they offer.*

*Vote to approve Transgender Non-Discrimination Policy*

*In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

11. Director Evaluation (2 minutes)

- a. Discussion/vote to approve Joe Battaglia as the certified Director Evaluator for the 2016-2017 year

*RA entertains a motion to approve Joe Battaglia as Director Evaluator for the 2016-2017 year*

*NG so moved*

*LT seconds*

*Discussion: none*

*Vote to approve Joe Battaglia as Director Evaluator for the 2016-2017 year*

*In favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0*

*Motion passes. Yes*

12. Safety Plan Review - RIDE Requirement (5 minutes)

- c. Discussion

*BL This needs to be discussed in every October meeting. The procedures and checklists are in the Director's office. Compass does have plan for each safety plan. This is the time of year that Compass meets to review. Staff has been updating the checklist. BL will be submitting this to committee.*

13. New Business

14. Public Comment

15. Adjourn @ 7: 33pm

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.

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.

**Health/Wellness/Farm Launch Committee**

We met on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 and discussed the following:

1. Why School Gardens' ; ideas for Compass (\$, space, potential partners)
2. Timeline: Oct/Nov concept, budget, research grants ; Dec/Jan/Feb lock details, approvals, fundraising, partnerships ; Mar/Apr LAUNCH
3. Committee members question timeline, area of farm, emergency access road, tree shade
4. Discuss Farm Launch Director position
5. Homework assignment for committee members-
  - a. brainstorm a list of resources: funders, partners, local businesses that may want to help/be involved, please bring list to the October 11 meeting
  - b. feedback about the "area of interest" and programming - please keep a running list that we, a as committee, can reflect and muse on in the very near future!

Director's Report

Provided By: Brandee Lapisky, M.Ed.

Submitted on: 10/6

Council meeting date: 10/11/2016

**Enrollment**

The enrollment tallies below are updated as of 10/6/16.

<b>Step Levels</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Enrollment (Actual by grade)</b>	<b>Enrollment (Actual by step)</b>
Explorers	K	18	36
	1	18	
Adventurers	2	19	19
Discoverers	3	19	38
	4	19	
Investigators	5	19	38
	6	19	
Navigators	7	19	37
	8	18	
Total Enrollment	K-8	168	168

\*Note that The Compass School is fully enrolled.

**Strategic Plan Updates**

Charter Renewal: We continue to receive positive feedback from RIDE regarding our performance on the 2016 PARCC and the charter renewal site visit outcomes. At this time, we anticipate a positive charter renewal process that will culminate late this fall.

Development:

- The development committee members have been identified and the first meeting will take place today.
- The Vision Event has been scheduled for 10/28 at the home of Lynne Phipps.

Blended Learning

- FUSE RI: We have identified the FUSE leadership team to include: Heidi Vazquez, Nikki Gardiner, and myself.
  - We met with FUSE for a Vision Meeting on 10/6.
  - [Vision Meeting Presentation](#)
- Wireless Initiative Project: The wireless initiative project has concluded. Tests indicate functional wireless coverage across campus. I provided constructive feedback to Envision, the company who managed the wireless upgrade through the state grant. In response, the owner met with me at Compass on 10/4. He offered a \$1,600 credit toward future work with the company.

#### Facilities Life Cycle: Current Campus

- Walkway work is underway to address the paths leading to the new modular building.
- Current campus maintenance will now fall under the umbrella of our new business manager, Michael Commendatore.

#### Facilities Life Cycle: Future Campus

- This process is on hold until the physical environment committee meets next week.

#### Facilities Life Cycle: Compass Farm

- An anticipated vacancy notice for a Farm Launch Director was shared with the community 2 weeks ago. Since that time, we have received 2 strong applicants. They will be interviewed by the Farm Advisory Board on October 11th.
- The “middle building” will be utilized for the Farm Headquarters. This requires major clean out of the space in late Fall/Winter.
- The initial farm site has been determined to be the front garden area, with frontage along Old North Road where the dahlia and memorial gardens are currently located.

#### Staff Configuration:

- No progress has been made with this area; it has not yet been “green lighted” by Council.

#### STEAM Pilot

- This project is active with the Investigator step. They are participating in a GLOBE weather monitoring program. Their end-of-trimester share will feature their STEAM work.
- The Discoverer step will be next in the STEAM pilot for 2nd trimester. They are beginning planning meetings now.

#### Elective Pilot

- This pilot is active with the Investigator step. Currently, there are only 2 choices as we were not yet ready to integrate the specials schedule this trimester.
- Trimester 1 offerings include: In Defense of Food and Service Learning.
- In trimester 2, we will include art and music in the choice selection.

### Assessment

- The iReady pilot is active. Teachers attended a webinar this month followed by baseline testing.
- We are noting that the baseline testing is taking longer than anticipated. We expect that with more familiarity with the program that this will decrease.
- Drew Virbila is conducting informational meetings with staff to discuss their students' baseline results.
- In the future, this data could be used for the data of RIDE-required Student Learning Objectives as part of the teacher evaluation process.

### Math

- A parent math informational night will be held on 10/18.

### **Other Topics**

Legislative Updates: No information to report at this time.

League of Charter Schools: No information to report at this time.

### Community Outreach

- SoRI Article: So RI Magazine featured the 3 local charters in their October edition. This is a [link to the article](#).
- URI:
  - I met with Sharon from URI Development who provided ideas about next steps for grant writing for the farm.
  - I met with Mr. Kidd and Dr. Evan Preisser from URI about a proposed trail system and connector path through the Old North Woods that would include an outlet to Compass.
- High School Choice Night: A high school choice night notice will go out to all of our district, private, and charter high schools inviting them to present to Compass 7th and 8th graders on November 9th from 6 - 7:30.