

In the rare instance when the School Board passes a motion, it is promptly ignored (or irrelevant)

At the 5 September 2013 School Board meeting, following discussion initiated by the Dean, a colleague proposed the following motion (my notes):

“I move that we consider a vote on appointing a faculty planning committee to write a proposal for discussion and approval by the School Board at some point in January [2014] for the establishment of the Center for Creative Arts Education and that we acknowledge that if such a center were established that we [allocate] these two unused faculty lines.”

After another colleague seconded the motion, the dean said: “All in favor that we create such a committee to make a proposal to the faculty for the January meeting with the understanding that were the proposal then [endorsed] that there is equivalent from the school, so that’s two unused 3-4-4 lines.” The motion passed.

The minutes, distributed shortly before the next School Board meeting half a year later on 20 February 2014, included the paragraph:

> The following motion was proposed by Prof [X], and seconded by Prof [Y]: “I move that we consider a vote on appointing a faculty planning committee to write a proposal for discussion and endorsement by the School Board in January/February 2014 for the establishment of the Center for Creative Arts Education and we acknowledge that if this Center is eventually established, it would include the use of the 2 unused faculty lines from 3-3-4.” It was clearly understood that the overall proposal (including the redeployment of two unused 3-3-4 lines) would, if endorsed by the School Board, be submitted to the EVPP [Executive Vice-President and Provost] for consideration. <

No faculty planning committee was ever formed, or if it was, the faculty was not informed of its constitution and membership, and no proposal by this committee was ever presented to the School Board. I conclude that School Board decisions are irrelevant.

After this experience, I stopped attending School Board meetings. As far as I recall from reading the minutes of subsequent School Board meetings, the School Board may never again have been asked for a formal decision (may never again have seen a motion tabled).