
Ascend Leadership Academy

September 2023

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Location: In Person

Remote Option Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84164794996?pwd=SmFXcEMwUzi2SkllallKd3VJZGVHUT09>

Members Present: Melanie Jacobs, Rex Scott, Drew Goodson, Roger Linville, Monique Torrez, Candice Broadus-McDougald, Dylan Howell, Kimberly Grice

Members Absent: Jason Smith

Non-Members Present: Justin Smith (Director), Cory Draughon (CSP), Damien Perez, Robert Sims

Call to Order: D. Goodson called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

School Mission:

The mission of Ascend Leadership Academy is to develop successful student leaders by growing their self-efficacy, intellectual understanding, and social competence. ALA will accomplish this by applying innovative teaching methods, incorporating student cultural realities and cultivating student ownership in the learning community.

Agenda

Open Session

- 1. Recitation of Mission:** Ju. Smith led the board in the recitation of the School Mission.
- 2. Approval of Consent Agenda:** R. Scott made a motion to accept the consent agenda. D. Howell seconded. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- [Approval of August 2023 Minutes](#)
- Approval of September 2023 Agenda

- 3. Eagle Scout Presentation by Eli Worrell:** 12th grade student Eli Worrell presented his Eagle Scout presentation to the Board of Directors. He shared the vision for a gaga ball pit structure to
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be constructed adjacent to the soccer field for his project. The Board asked questions related to the project and Eli provided pictures and examples. D. Howell made a motion to approve the execution of the Eagle Project; Seconded by M. Jacobs. R. Scott disclosed a conflict of interest and abstained from the vote.

4. Public Comment: No one was present for public comment.

Public comment is a time for the community to provide feedback to the Board of Directors. For in-person meetings attendees must sign up at the start of the meeting in order to give public comment. Each community member is limited to 2 minutes of comment, with a total time allotted to public comment of 10 minutes. During remote meetings attendees may add their public comments to the chat feature which will be sent directly to the Board of Directors. Board members will then share the comments with the meeting attendees for up to 10 minutes.

Public comment is also a time for the Board of Directors to listen to the feedback of the community. Board members can not respond to public comments during the meeting. However, the Board recognizes that each stakeholder is a vital part of our community and will take comments into consideration when making decisions, planning, providing feedback to administration, and completing committee work.

5. Administrative Report: Ju. Smith reviewed the administrative report for September 2023 with the Board of Directors.

- a. [School Administrative Report - September 2023](#)

6. Finance Report: Cory Draughon reviewed the Financial Report detailing finances from the month of August 2023.

- a. [Finance Report - August 2023](#)

7. 2023 ALA School Performance Data Presentation: Ju. Smith shared with the Board data recently released related to 22-23 EOG/EOC assessments. The data was recently released by NCDPI. The data shared compared ALA's performance with other schools in the local districts as well as compared with the State of NC, Harnett and Lee Counties.

- a. [ALA Student Performance Data 2023 Board](#)

8. SB49 Policies: First Read: Cory Draughon described two policies to the board provided by ALA's legal counsel Lisa Gordon-Stella. The first policy are related to the recently approved Senate Bill 49. The policies will ensure ALA is in compliance with this bill and relate to Parents rights. The second bill was an update to ALA's Non-Title IX Bullying, Discrimination, and Harassment procedures. C. Draughon emphasized how the legal counsel advised to approve these policies after the first reading. The Board agreed.

- a. [2023.SB49.CompliancePolicies.docx](#)

D. Howell made a motion to accept the Parent's Bill of Rights policy. Seconded by C. Broadus-McDougald.. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. [W 2023.Non-TitleIX Bullying and Discrimination Reporting and Grievance policy.docx](#)

D. Howell made a motion to accept the Parent's Bill of Rights policy. Seconded by R. Linville.. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. School and Community Board Committee Discussion

D. Howell introduced the possibility of having a School and Community committee. To review policies within the 2.000 series of policies School and Community. Committee could also support the school safety plan. Parent Organizations, School Safety and Family and School Communications are possible topics for the board committee to discuss.

D. Howell made a motion to approve the creation of the School and Family Committee, Seconded by R. Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board will discuss committee members at the October Board meeting.

R. Scott made a motion to enter closed session. Seconded by D. Howell. ALA personnel were excused so the Board could discuss a personal matter.

Entered closed session at 8:22pm

Closed Session (If Needed):

Purpose of Closed Session Discussion Item #3: 143-318.11. Closed sessions.(a) Permitted Purposes. - It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee...

Adjournment

Motion made to go to Open Session at 8:32pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting made by D. Goodson. Seconded by R. Scott. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.