

ALA Board Meeting 3/24/2021

Location: 283 Harvey Faulk Road, Sanford NC

Members Present: S. Gatlin, A. Fonke, T. Fox , E. Arrington

Members Absent: B. Grindle

Non-Members Present: J. Smith (Director), C. Draughton (Charter Success), J. Whitt (MS Principal), D. Perez (ALA Programs Manager)

Call to Order: S. Gatlin called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

Agenda

Open Session

1. **Approval of March 2021 Meeting Agenda:** S. Gatlin asked for a review of the meeting agenda for all board members. There were no objections or amendments. A. Fonke made a motion to accept the meeting agenda; T. Fox seconded; Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Approval of February Board Meeting minutes:** Board members were provided with the meeting minutes prior to the meeting to review. A. Fonke made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written; T. Fox seconded; Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** S. Gatlin opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comments.
4. **Administrative Report:** Presented by J. Smith, Managing Director of ALA
 - a. **General:** Teachers continue to work in the guidelines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Are being creative to meet the needs of students in difficult times. Career Week took place in early March and students participated in events throughout the week with people from various professions. Student Led conferences, Spring Break and NC Check Ins are upcoming events.
 - b. **Student Achievement:** Progress reports were distributed in early March. Slight increase in classroom performance across the board.
 - c. **Student Leadership and Character Development:** CATCH program, a mentorship curriculum is being piloted. Career Week took place and involved student leaders.
 - d. **School Culture and Climate:** Spring Sports have begun. Recreational soccer is being offered to students on Wednesdays. E-sports team continues to flourish and compete.
 - e. **Personnel:** Two resignations starting on March 31st. Replacements are in place to ensure no gap in instruction.

5. **Charter Success Partners Report:** Presented by C. Draughon from Charter Success Partners.
 - a. **Operation Services Report:** Lottery and school enrollment numbers for 21-22 school year are positive. 300 applications for about 145 spots.
 - b. **Financial and Budget Report:** Still trending towards a small surplus for fiscal year. Only a few areas over budget due to COVID related needs. Insurances were under budgeted and will be reevaluated for 21-22 school year.
 - c. **Facility Bond Update:** C. Draughon reviewed the Request for Proposals that was sent to two contracting firms this month. The RFP encompassed the work necessary to complete Phase 3 of ALA's campus. This includes 24 classroom structure that would bring MS and HS students together in the same building. C. Draughon also review the agreement with a potential Financial advisor services group, Specialized Public Finance Inc., who is being recommended to represent the school in the pursuance of bond financing. Board members reviewed contract and asked logistical questions. S. Gatlin made a motion to accept the agreement to work with Specialized Public Finance Inc. to secure bond financing; T. Fox seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Items for Discussion

1. **Update on Board Search/Recruitment Update:** Board search has yielded over 5 candidates for ALA's Board of Directors. J. Adler from CSP will send out a document with more information for the current members to rank applicants. Highest ranked applicants will be invited to April meeting for an interview with the Board.
2. **Second Review of 21-22 School Calendar:** Lee County Schools has not released their calendar for the 21-22 school year. Board members think it is prudent to hold off approval until ALA's calendar can be compared to LCS. J. Smith will notify parents the calendar is coming but waiting on LCS.
3. **ALA Return to Campus COVID-19 Updates:** J. Smith presented data related to how ALA is currently serving students in Blended or remote learning. He also explained the anticipated options of being able to implement Plan A in the near future to bring students back at least 4 days a week. Board Members requested that J. Smith survey the ALA community on their preferences related to Plan A or remote instruction to give the Board more data to make an informed decision. A special meeting may be necessary after survey results have been compiled.

Closed Session

No closed session items were discussed

**Motion to adjourn meeting by S. Gatlin; seconded by E. Arrington
Motion carried unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm