

Ascend Leadership Academy Board Meeting Agenda

4/30/18

Members Present: S Gatlin, D. Draughon, J. Smith, A. Fonke

Non-Members Present: C. Draughon (Charter Success Partners)

Members Absent: K. Mellette, E. Arrington, L. Malone

Meeting called to Order by D. Draughon 6:36

1. Welcome

- a. Enrollment Update: J. Smith reviewed the student enrollment numbers. He stated that at the moment we have received 206 total applications. He stated that we have slightly overenrolled in 6th grade to compensate for attrition. 7th grade is not overenrolled but we have received over 90 applications. Several families have not responded to offers and will be rescinded after notice is sent.
- b. ALA Community Events: J. Smith spoke about the turnout for our Community Events at Buffalo Wild Wings in Sanford. The events were heavily attended by ALA families and some of our staff members were able to attend as well. The event was also a fundraiser where ALA received 10% of revenue from the event. The events over two nights raised over \$300. A. Fonke also discussed the events and their overall success.

2. Facility Update

- a. Rezoning: The Board discussed the rezoning necessary for the facility property site. The Board decided that we will continue to work with the neighbors on Harvey Faulk Road to help them feel more comfortable with the site plan. This will include applying for conditional zoning, that ensures the property will be rezoned Rural Residential if the school fails. We have to submit the plans to the county and stick to the plans that will be approved to appease the fears of the family.
- b. Updated plans and timeline: The application for conditional rezoning sets us back a couple of weeks with a projected occupancy date of the 2nd week in August.
- c. Contingency plans: The Board reviewed facility contingency plans already established. If unforeseen circumstances arise we may need to push the school start date back but this is unlikely.

3. New Charter School Leaders Institute June 12-13

- a. J Smith discussed the New Charter School Leaders Institute with Board Members. He will email the information to other board members after the meeting. He discussed the need for at least two board members for the various sessions (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) S. Gatlin will go and other members will check their schedules and let J. Smith know.

- b. May 20th Registration Deadline: ALA must register for the New Charter School Leaders Institute by May 20th.

Consent Agenda (Action)

1. **Approval of March Minutes:** J. Smith sent the board members a copy of the March minutes prior to the meeting for their review. D. Draughon made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, Seconded by A. Fonke -- Motion carried unanimously.
2. **2018-19 ALA Operating Budget:** J. Smith and C. Draughon have worked to create an effective and responsible budget for the 18-19 school year. J. Smith shared the projected budget with Board members ahead of the meeting. C. Draughon discussed that salaries are in line at 55-57% of total budget, Facility is around 22%, high because we are constructing a facility that can house ALA for Year 1 and 2. We are projected to have a surplus of \$40,000 which is 3% of overall budget, the ultimate target is 5%. In conjunction with the projected budget the Board reviewed the Break even budget. This budget reduces cost based on 135 students and has a zero balance. J. Smith made a motion to approve both budgets, Seconded by S. Gatlin. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Grading Policy:** Board reviewed the rewritten grading policy based on board discussion at last month's meeting. The main change involved the zero policy. S Gatlin made a motion to accept the Grading policy, Seconded by A. Fonke, Motion carried unanimously.
4. **EC Policies**
 - a. EC Records
 - b. Homebound Services for EC students
 - c. EC Services
 - d. Discipline for EC Students

J. Smith reviewed all policies and discussed their importance. Board members were sent the policies well in advance of the meeting. D. Draughon motioned to approve the EC policies without edits, Seconded by A. Fonke, Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Charter School Board Reports Policy:** The Board discussed the Charter School Board Reports Policy. J. Smith discussed the various reports that the Lead Administrator shall present to Board members at every monthly board meeting. The different reports include Academics, student leadership and character development, School culture and climate, and Finances/Budgetary (that will be reviewed by the Finance committee). S. Gatlin made a motion to approve the policy as written, Seconded by A Fonke. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Lunch Service Policy (My Hot Lunch Box) --** J. Smith discussed ALA's relationship with myhotlunchbox.com and ALA's lunch service plan that will utilize vendors in the area. We will use the same standard as the Federal policy. We will rely on family self

reporting of data to id the families who meet the criteria. In short anyone who qualifies for the federal program will qualify at ALA for free or reduced meals through our lunch service policy and program.

7. **Closed Session to discuss Personnel matters:** D. Draughon made a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters, Seconded by S. Gatlin at 7:25pm. S. Gatlin made a motion to go into open session, Seconded by J. Smith at 7:48.

8. D. Draughon made a motion adjourn the meeting, Seconded by S. Gatlin. Motion carried unanimously. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm.**