

Ascend Leadership Academy Board Meeting Agenda

5/23/18

Members Present: L. Malone, E. Arrington, J. Smith, A. Fonke, S. Gatlin

Non-Members Present: D. Perez, J. Lewis, C. Draughon

Members Absent: K. Mellette, D. Draughon

Meeting called to Order by L. Malone at 6:37pm.

1. Welcome and Introduction

- a. Enrollment Update** - J. Smith updated the board members on the status of student enrollment. ALA is on track to reach its enrollment goal of 160 students. Currently there is 165 students registered 87 in 6th and 78 in 7th. We will continue to have Community Events with one this Saturday, May 26th.
- b. Facility Update** - J. Smith and A. Fonke attended the Lee County Planning Board committee meeting this past Monday, May 21st. ALA's application for conditional rezoning was approved unanimously. The Lee County Board of Commissioners will vote based on the recommendation of the planning committee on June 4th. Consensus is that the commissioners will approve the rezoning.
- c. New Charter School Leaders Institute June 12-13** - L. Malone, S. Gatlin, and J. Smith confirmed their attendance at the New Charter School Leaders Institute in June.
- d. RTO Framework:** RTO Framework is due to the Office of Charter Schools on Friday, May 25th. J. Smith is working to put all of the documents together to submit by the deadline.

Consent Agenda

- 2. Approval of April's meeting minutes:** April's meeting minutes were sent to the Board Members a week prior to the meeting. No changes were requested. S. Gatlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by A. Fonke. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. 18-19 ALA School Calendar:** Although the board approved the 18-19 school calendar previously it was before Lee and Harnett County released their calendars. J. Smith aligned the calendars to accommodate our families with children at district schools. This involved changing a few dates scheduled for teacher workdays. L. Malone made a motion to accept the updated School Calendar. Seconded by E. Arrington. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **School Operating Hours:** J. Smith discussed the results from the parent survey given to parents during the registration process. He shared that many parents were concerned about getting their children to ALA when they had elementary students who started at 8:00am in District schools. Proposed a 8:15am - 2:45pm instructional day based on survey data. The teacher day would be from 7:45 to 3:45. Under this plan we still meet the required 1025 instructional hour requirement. S. Gatlin made a motion to approve the operational hours proposed. Seconded by L. Malone. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Formal vote on NC State Health Plan:** The Board recapped a conversation concerning the State Health plan from a previous Board meeting. J. Smith shared the quotes that he received from a private health insurance provider and compared them with the State Health plan. Board agreed that they could find quality health benefits for employees and be fiscally responsible. L Malone made a motion to opt out of the State Health plan and pursue private health benefit options for full-time employees. Seconded by A Fonke. Motion passes unanimously.
6. **Approval of New Board Members Orientation plan:** The Board reviewed the new Board members orientation plan created. Board members discussed the various steps in the process. J. Smith made a motion to approve the plan. Seconded by S. Gatlin. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Approval of Beginning Teacher Plan:** J. Smith reviewed the Beginning Teacher Support Plan created. He reviewed the basics of the plan. Board Members received the plan prior to the meeting. L. Malone made a motion to accept the plan. Seconded by A. Fonke. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **Closed Session (Personnel):** L. Malone made a motion to go into closed session at 7:27pm to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by S. Gatlin. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Smith made a motion to go back into open session at 7:50pm. Seconded by S. Gatlin. Motion carried unanimously. (C. Draughon returned to the meeting)

9. **Charter School Assumption Opportunity:** ALA's Board of Directors discussed the recent notification of the opportunity to assume an existing charter school in Bertie County. C. Draughon discussed specific details about the school and gave the Board objective data. The Board was concerned about the feasibility of operating both schools with current resources. The Board requested more information about the demographics of the community and specific data about the school's academic achievement. The Board would like more information about assumption and feel that they can not commit to applying for assumption with so many unknown factors and current responsibilities.

L. Malone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S. Gatlin seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.