
Ascend Leadership Academy

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Location: In Person

Remote Option Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861070644?pwd=VWRrMGpmRFNCNjh2YVpjWHBGS0tnZz09>

Members Present: Roger Linville, Jason Smith, Melanie Jacobs, Candice Broadus-McDougald, Rex Scott, Drew Goodson, Monique Torrez, D. Howell

Members Absent: K. Grice

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

Agenda

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:29pm by Jason Smith.

- 1. Recitation of Mission:** Justin Smith recited the school's mission statement.

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.

- 2. Approval of Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda was shared with board members. R. Scott made a motion to approve consent agenda. Seconded by R. Linville. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda




- [Approval of March 2024 Minutes](#)
- Approval of April 2024 Agenda

- 3. Public Comment:** No public comment was made.

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.

4. **[Administrative Report April 2024](#)**: Managing Director, Justin Smith, shared the administrative report for April. He highlighted the major events of the month including NC Check-In results, Purple Up! Day and the Spring Musical.
5. **Finance Report**: C. Draughon of Charter Success Partners presented the board report through March of 2024. He shared current projections for expenditures and revenue. He also introduced the planned annual budget for Fiscal Year 2025 as a first read. The draft includes projections for potential Remote Academy students. The Board will review the draft budget and discuss again before approval at the May meeting.
 - a. [March 2024 Financials](#)
 - b. [Draft FY25 ALA Budget - 1st Reading](#)
6. **Remote Academy Application 24-25**: J. Smith reviewed the Remote Academy application that has been completed by ALA's administration. He discussed target enrollment, curriculum and instructional plan, the proposed budget and the specific remote academy policies included in the document. The Board had questions about staffing and sources of revenue and major expenditures. The Board also had questions about the enrollment process and policies. J. Smith discussed with the board and showed where it was located in the Remote Instruction plan. Ja. Smith made a motion to approve the submission of the Remote Academy Application, Remote Instruction Plan, and Remote Academy Budget to NCDPI. Seconded by M. Jacobs. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1 (D. Goodson dissented due to the accelerated timeline and concern for administration's ability to organize the remote academy by the Fall) (D. Howell not present for vote).
 - a.  ALA Remote Charter Amendment Application
 - b.  ALA Remote Instruction Plan 24-25
 - c.  ALA 2024 NC Remote Charter Academy Amendment Application Budget Template 0...

Ja. Smith made a motion to go into closed session at 7:56pm to discuss new employee recommendations and legal matters involving the school. Seconded by D. Goodson. Motion carried unanimously.

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...

7. Employee Recommendation in Closed Session

a. [Mary Dreher](#)

8. Any Closed Session items requiring Board Action :

a. Legal Matter

Ja. Smith made a motion to enter back into open session at 8:14pm. Seconded by D. Howell.

Ja. Smith made a motion to accept the teacher recommendation of Mary Dreher for the 24-25 school year. Seconded by D. Goodson. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Risk Assessment Plan Update: D. Howell shared with the board the trauma kits that were created by him and his associates. He also introduced the board to new legislation related to the Threat Assessment and the Center of Safer Schools. The Board will continue to monitor and develop a policy as more information is released.

Ja. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by D. Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16pm