

## **Ascend Leadership Academy Board Meeting Agenda**

3/28/18

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

Non-Members Present: C. Draughon, J. Lewis, D. Perez (No non-member requested public comment)

Members Absent: D. Draughon, K. Mellette

**Meeting called to Order by Justin Smith at 6:37 pm.**

1. **Approval of February Minutes:** J. Smith sent the board members a copy of the February minutes prior to the meeting for their review. L. Malone made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, Seconded by S. Gatlin -- Motion carried unanimously.
  
2. **Facility Update**
  - a. Lease Recap -- C. Draughon and J. Smith explained to board members the process of reviewing the lease with School House Development. C. Draughon sent the lease to our lawyer as recommended by the Board chairman at our last meeting. ALA's lawyer and the Development company have gone back and forth making revisions to the lease to benefit the school. The process has taken essentially a month but as of today we believe that we have a lease that both parties agree on. We now need the board to authorize J. Smith to sign the lease once the lawyer receives final approval. **Motion made to authorize Justin Smith by S. Gatlin, 2nd by Dr. Malone -- Passes unanimous.**
  - b. Modular Unit Update: Schoolhouse Development has acquired a modular facility (20 classrooms, office space, and furnished) -This will save us money and free up the budget. The site plan has been adjusted to fit the needs of the new modulars.
  - c. Timeline of Events: J. Smith and C. Draughon have spoken to the project manager about the timeline. We must go through a process for rezoning that includes meetings with the city. We can release information about the site in April and he expects to be on site in May to begin site work. All important for the CO and receiving funds. All in all the timeline is good and we are on track.
  
3. **ALA Enrollment Update**
  - a. Current Enrollment: Hosted enrollment lottery for 6th grade on March 10th. As of today we have had 100 6th grade applications. We did over enroll and have currently 84 students accepted. In 7th we had 82 overall applications with some still non respondent. We currently have 69 accepted students in 7th grade.

- b. Community Events: We will plan two community events per month starting in April. We are working with community members to plan these events. Hopefully by July we can host something on site. The School community is voting on the mascots via Facebook and the website.

#### **4. Operations Policies (Action)**

- a. Staff Evaluation - We will use NCEES in conjunction with other evaluation tools.
- b. Student Records - Confidential with Lead Administrator responsible for plan
- c. Family and School Communication - Following State policies.
- d. School Visitors - Procedures

J. Smith reviewed the proposed operational policies with the board and discussed specifics. Board members were sent the policies several days before the meeting. Board members discussed the policies and asked specific questions. **Dr. Malone moved to accept Operations Policies as drafted. Seconded by A Fonke -- Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **3. Instructional Programming Policies (Action)**

- a. Grading Scales - Discussion about best practices and what is punitive vs learning maximization dominated conversation. Dr. Malone was concerned about the late work policy and zero policy and how they aligned with our overall mission. L. Malone drove the discussion moving the grading discussion to evidence of learning and a mastery of content. Wanting grades to represent learning and growth vs. tasks and behavior. Other board members agreed. **J. Smith under recommendation of the board will rewrite the grading policy to include revisions. The Board will review and approve the policy at the April Board meeting.**
- b. Report Cards
- c. Student Promotion
- d. Student Retention

Report Cards, Student Promotion/Retention policies were discussed with no objection. Board members were sent the policies several days before the meeting. **Motion was made by Dr. Malone to accept the Reports and Student Promotion/Retention policies as drafted. Seconded by A. Fonke passes unanimous.**

#### **4. ALA Prospective Employees Approval (Closed Session)**

L. Malone made a motion made to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters, Seconded by S. Gatlin at 7:57

S. Gatlin made a motion to go into open session, Seconded by J. Smith at 8:23

**J. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by S. Gatlin Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.