

Access Charter School
Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 10, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order

The hybrid Access Charter School Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kyle Havill, at 5:01 P.M. Notice of the hybrid Board meeting was provided to the public via the school communication system, school marquee, and school calendar before the meeting date.

Roll Call

Board Members participating in person: Kyle Havill, Alice Ramadan, and Tina Webster
Board Members participating via the web: Marisa Bradbury, Bert Fonseca, and Lori Georganna
Non-Board Member participating in person: Roger Watkins, Executive Director

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 15, 2023 had been presented through email. Marisa Bradbury made a motion to approve the minutes; Bert Fonseca seconded. Motion passed; minutes approved.

Director's Report

122 students currently enrolled, down from 126 due to students graduating, leaving mid-year, or moving out of the area. Largest class in ACS history graduating in May (19 students). ACS received 68 applications for the next school year. However, only 32 are possibly eligible because of changes to the Florida Alternate Assessment (FAA). Anticipating more applications over the Summer based on based trend.

Per FAA, only 1% of students are eligible for a specialized diploma. In 2021, eligibility requirements were changed for a specialized diploma so that only students with an IQ of 67 or lower were eligible instead of 80 and below. Students who are not eligible need to be in a mainstream classroom. The Department of Education did approve a waiver to surpass 1% in recent years but moving forward OC will meet the 1% requirement.

Potential impacts of FAA changes on ACS:

- Classrooms will consist of all students who require greater support and highly skilled and experienced staff.
- Student/teacher ratio will need to be adjusted as well as other programs (e.g. work programs).
- To support current 11th-grade students, their IEP language was adjusted to allow them to graduate from ACS versus having to make a traumatic adjustment to a mainstream classroom in their last year of high school.
- ACS will need to review students' access points. Any student receiving a score of 2 or higher for multiple years will need to be re-evaluated to hit the 1% FAA goal.
- A second ACS location will likely be delayed 1-2 years due to challenges in staffing for highly intensive classrooms.
- Potential changes to the school charter that renews in 2030. May want to consider rewriting the charter to include ESE students with IEP in the 67-80 IQ category and provide standard instruction with support to help with the transition to a mainstream class.

Four paraprofessional positions are open. Director interviewed 17 candidates and extended 5 offers with 4 accepting. However, all 4 candidates did not follow through with the role.

Director is currently in the process of end-of-year observations to evaluate teachers. Considering adding 1 more self-contained classroom for the High School because the High School is full, and the Middle School is declining. Considering merging the testing role with the ESE coordinator role next year under the assumption the current role will be open at year-end.

The Director provided an update on a case related to an incident from 3 years ago and on a recent incident where a student had a non-permissible food substance in his backpack. A warning was provided to the parents.

Parent meeting this week. Agenda items include student absenteeism and the impact on the school improvement plan. Currently have 8 students with 30% absences; they will not be promoted to the next grade. Will also discuss FAA eligibility as well as the need for increased parent participation/volunteering.

Director terminated a member of the cleaning crew due to inappropriate behavior with their vehicle on school property. Filed a police report to prevent their future trespassing.

Upcoming: Director will be attending instructor training PCM, and youth mental health training. Staff meeting is scheduled for May. The school year ends with prom and graduation. The summer schedule begins May 31.

Bert Fonseca made a motion to accept the Director's report. Tina Webster seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

140 FTE were budgeted. Currently at 126 resulting in lower revenue, but expenses are down overall so positive bottom line. Generally, the budget is amended in April. However, this year there were only small changes not warranting an amendment. Bert Fonseca motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Alice Ramadan seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items

- a. Window renovations – 2 bids for replacement of the windows in the Middle School as they were not replaced during the renovations and are not functioning properly. Two bids were received. Director is requesting \$25k to replace the windows.

- a. Quote 1 - \$19,000
- b. Quote 2 - \$17,000

Bert Fonseca motioned to authorize spending \$25k on window replacements; Lori Georganna seconded. Motion carried.

- b. HS Bldg. D Roof Replacement. The roof requires frequent patching and now needs a full replacement. Two bids were received. Previous positive history with Martin Roofing. Monegro did not provide a detailed proposal.
 - a. Martin Roofing - \$80,000
 - b. Monegro Roofing - \$75,000

Tina Webster made a motion to authorize \$80k for a new roof for the HS building, Bert Fonseca seconded. Motion carried.

c. Bathroom Renovations in MS Bldg.

a. Only 1 quote to date - \$45,000

The MS bathrooms have not been updated since 1963. Director requested \$45k to spend on the beautification of the two bathrooms. Still waiting for 2nd quote. Bert Fonseca recommended increasing the budget to \$50k to account for unforeseen expenses. Bert Fonseca made a motion to spend \$50k on a beautification project for the two bathrooms in the MS building. Alice Ramadan seconded. Motion carried.

d. Safety Compliance Rule 6A-1.0018. Very few changes to the manual from last year. ACS adopts all the procedures. Director needs Board approval so that the Board Chair can sign off. Alice Ramadan made a motion to approve the Safety Manual; Tina Webster seconded. Motion carried.

Board Member Matters:

- a. Teacher Retention and 24-25 Salary Schedule. 9% pay raise schedule hasn't been released. The increase is not on top of what was received last time and it also accounts for the increase in benefits. OCPS is offering a \$4k supplemental on top of base to any ASA teacher who has a self-contained classroom. ACS we will need to self-fund to match the County, which the Board recommends or even offer more to remain competitive. Director will meet with the Accountant in May to see what ACS can cover.
- b. Board Governance Training/Fingerprints – discussed process.
- c. Daniel Woodring – Attorney – Retainer. In the past, ACS has relied on their insurance for any legal cases. Given recent issues related to security, FAA, compliance requirements, etc., Director recommends having a lawyer on retainer for support and availability. There are two law firms known for supporting charter schools: Arnold Law Firm and Daniel Woodring. Both are in Tallahassee. Arnold is involved in class actions so if he is on retainer, the school is automatically included in class actions. Director interviewed and researched Woodring. The retainer for him is \$5k and \$360/hour. Tina Webster made a motion to approve hiring Woodring; Bert Fonseca seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tina Webster. Bert Fonseca seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

FOR CORRECTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT Lori Georganna at lgeorganna@AccessCharterSchool.org
2023-2024 Board Meeting Schedule – All meetings are at 5:00 P.M. Next meeting is on June 5, 2024, at the campus and hybrid.

Respectfully submitted
Lori Georganna, April 11, 2024