



**GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Special Meeting of the SAMS Academy Governing Council on Friday, August 19, 2022

Zoom.us

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Larry Kennedy, Farrah Nickerson, Brandy Bond, Alex Carothers, Roland Dewing, Mike Romo and  
Laura Kohr

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mike Deveraux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Bridget Barrett, Amanda Catanzaro, Sean Fry and Lauren Chavez

**PUBLIC**

Steve Nakamura via phone

These minutes were approved on \_\_\_\_\_

By a vote of \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ absent \_\_\_ abstained

\_\_\_\_\_ President

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

**I. Call to Order**

Larry Kennedy called to order the Special Meeting of the Governing Council for the Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics, and Science Academy on August 19, 2022 at 4:06 p.m. on Zoom.us and in person at SAMS Academy.

**A. Roll Call**

Larry Kennedy asked Amanda Catanzaro to call roll. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy.

**B. Adoption of the Agenda\***

Larry Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to approve the agenda. Laura Kohr seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Review/Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Larry Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2022 Regular Meeting. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2022 Regular Meeting. Rowland Dewing seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. Public Comment**

Larry Kennedy asked Bridget Barrett and Amanda Catanzaro if there was any public comment. There were no public comments.

**III. Ongoing Business Matters**

**A. Aviation Program Update**

Dr. Lauren Chavez presented. There have been 62 hours of flight instruction since the last meeting. Four (4) students have completed their pilot certificate. Discussion around Discovery Flights being provided with staff on board on Saturday mornings. Larry Kennedy asked if these flights were normally scheduled for students because of the concern on using fuel and expenses on something other than for students. The students would be riding along, this would be for any open seats that may be available. The goal is to have teachers and staff more vested in what students are learning and be able to witness the direct instruction of students. Farrah Nickerson asked if the program ends when the student has received their license? This is new for SAMS Academy, because this is the first

time students have received their license prior to their senior year/graduation. Dr. Chavez is using these licensed pilots as aviation assistants in class, but would like to extend their role and allow them to do Discovery flights with other students. Farrah Nickerson questions if the school's insurance will cover that. Roland Dewing states there may be some FAA issues because as a private pilot, you cannot fly for compensation. In the SIM it would be fine, but in the plane, it is hard to see how this could work. Farrah Nickerson agrees with Roland Dewing. Dr. Chavez investigated the legal issues and states there are no legal concerns and that insurance will cover these flights. This would be part of the pre-training flight of students and include mostly air traffic control communication practice. Roland Dewing stated that the private pilots cannot be logging that as flight time and asked if the SIM provides students with opportunities to practice communication skills. Dr. Chavez says it does not, but they work that into their practice in the SIM. Brandy Bond states that if we are going to increase the program, we will have to look into additional revenues to do this and using private pilot SAMS students might be a good course. Roland Dewing asks what the pre-requisites would be for the students going up? Dr. Chavez says these students would be in the Advanced Aviation classes and have practiced verbalizations in class. Roland Dewing stated that students and staff could become AEM members and could get flights that way, instead of using school resources. Larry Kennedy stated if there is an extra seat, then that would be a good time for staff to be able to ride along with students.

Dr. Chavez shared that the 50 hour oil change was completed. Dr. Chavez presented a "Barnstorming Bear" to Bridget Barrett and Larry Kennedy.

SIM has had 4 hours of use during the new student orientation.

There are approximately 25 students in Drone this year, a big increase from the 8 last year. They are working towards their Remote Pilot Certification.

CAP will begin next semester when we are in the new building.

Dr. Chavez shared an idea to partner with Luna College so that students could have the opportunity to earn an Associates in Aeronautics degree.

Dr. Chavez shared that she is working on finding an internship partnership with Air Traffic Control and she currently knows of two students that are interested in pursuing that side of aviation. Brandy Bond shared that she would be willing to help get students center experience.

Roland Dewing shared that he could get volunteers to help teach ground school and asked what requirements would be.

Amanda Catanzaro shared they would need to have a cleared background check with the school on file.

## **B. Facility Update**

Steve Nakamura spoke to the governing council via phone. Shared that the new building site has started double sheetrock and insulation. The gym ceiling has

been painted and stucco has been started. The water lines are now coming to the building and the site is on schedule for the December 15 completion date. There was a meeting with the low voltage, the security company that went very well this week. There was a variance hearing with the City of Albuquerque and the hearing office. Anticipate approval but won't come for 15 days after hearing in writing. Larry Kennedy asked if this was a DRB hearing and why was it required. Steve Nakamura stated it was a variance hearing so that the fence could be on the property line and more than 6 foot tall. Larry Kennedy inquired about the peer review for the gym wall. Steve Nakamura stated it has been completed and he will send Larry a copy. Steve Nakamura stated that the HOA issue has been remedied. Farrah Nickerson shared that at the last weekly meeting the completion date shared was December 25.

### **C. SAMS Wellness Committee Update**

Brandy Bond presented that the committee has met and decided upon the new name of the school; Albuquerque Aviation Academy. Requests that it is put on the next meeting agenda for approval from the full governing council.

The Wellness Committee will meet on the Tuesday prior to the Governing Council meetings and the next things on the committee's agenda are revising the mission statement and finalizing the survey. Discussed the timeline for the name change and the mission change regarding PEC approval. The committee also needs to look into the legal and state requirements of changing the schools name.

## **IV. Administrative Update**

Bridget Barrett discussed grading weights and how discussions with teachers have been taking place. Teachers are required to submit lesson plans weekly for their interactive lessons at the beginning of their core academic classes. SEL classes are working well with the middle school students. Gave an update on enrollment.

Jolene Herring, the social worker, will be overseeing the Equity Council.

At the next meeting, administration will have updated COVID related policies to reflect the recent changes from CDC and PED. Ms. Barrett shared that the special education department is amazing with the new co-directors.

Farrah Nickerson stated that a few schools have hit their threshold and asked what our threshold is? Ms. Barrett stated that would need to be discussed and that ours really depends on staff numbers.

Question was asked when the live lessons for teachers would begin and what happens when the teacher rules are more stringent than the school policy (i.e. cell phone use in class). It was shared that one teacher stated that the student would get a zero (0) on the assignment or a zero (0) on the unit test. Discussion on handbook rules vs classroom rules. Ms. Barrett shared that administration will investigate and will follow up with the board.

**V. New Business Matters**

**A. 2022 Open Meeting Resolution Revisions**

Larry Kennedy shared that if the governing council wanted to move the meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 4:00 time frame, a revision would need to be made to the current Open Meeting Resolution. After discussion, Larry Kennedy called for a motion to table the 2022 Open Meeting Resolution Revisions. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to table the 2022 Open Meeting Resolution Revisions. Alex Carothers seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Engagement Letter for Auditors Clifton Larson Allen**

Larry Kennedy called for a motion to approve his signing of the engagement letter for Clifton Larson Allen, auditors. Farrah Nickerson made the motion to approve Larry Kennedy signing of the engagement letter. Roland Dewing seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Memorandum of Understanding with Public Charter Schools of New Mexico for 2022-2023 School Year for Governing Council Development**

MOU with PCSNM would be for \$4,600 annually. Larry Kennedy asked for a motion to approve the MOU with PCSNM for the 2022-2023 School Year for Governing Council Development. Farrah Nickerson made the motion. Mike Romo seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Governing Council Development**

**A. Strategic Planning Discussion**

**1. New Facility Construction**

Discussed previously in meeting

**2. Mission Statement Revision**

Wellness Committee is working on this. Goal is to present rough draft to the board for their suggestions and input. If governing council members have suggestions prior, send them to Alex Carothers. Alex is providing a drop box for comments.

**3. Aerospace Curriculum Implementation to Align with New Mission Statement**

Farrah Nickerson asked if the name suggestion is Albuquerque Aviation Academy should it be Aviation Curriculum vs Aerospace Curriculum.

**VII. Finance Report**

**A. Business Office Operations Update**

Sean Fry presented that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting. There is a push for membership for the 40 day which is the second Wednesday in October.

**B. Voucher Approvals**

After reviewing the vouchers and finance packet, Sean Fry asked for consideration for approval of the voucher report. Larry Kennedy called for a motion to approve the vouchers. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to approve the vouchers. Alex Carothers seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Announcements**

The next meeting of the governing council is scheduled for September 16, 2022. Time to be announced.

**IX. Adjournment**

Larry Kennedy called for a motion to adjourn. Farrah Nickerson made a motion to adjourn. Mike Romo seconded the motion. Larry Kennedy called for a roll call vote to approve the agenda. Amanda Catanzaro called Roland Dewing, Farrah Nickerson, Alex Carothers, Mike Romo, Laura Kohr, Brandy Bond, and Larry Kennedy; all voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting of the Governing Council for the Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics and Science Academy adjourned on August 19, 2022 on zoom.us at 5:29 p.m.