

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **Tuesday, Nov 14, 2023 BOARD MEETING 2:00 P.M.**

VENUE: **ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING DISTRICT OFFICE**
 5999 SAVOY Drive Houston, Texas 77096

I. CALL TO ORDER President Brooks called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm

*Quorum Established
In attendance -*

*Board members: Tommy Brooks, James Douglas, Isaac Ledesma, Veda Brown
Absent: Percy Creuzot
Staff: Brandon Chandler, Superintendent, Gisela Gomez, Krystle Chavez,
Yolanda Cunningham
Counsel: Marcia Johnson and Luckett A. Johnson
Other: Shawana Spann, Clarence Grier, Clay Mauldin, George Sues, Doris
Robins (all via ZOOM)*

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Creuzot called for a moment of silence.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board shall consider approving the minutes from the special called board meeting convened on October 3, 2023.

*Motion to approve minutes of October 3, 2023 board meeting made by James Douglas;
second by Isaac Ledesma. Motion carried unanimously*

IV. PRESENTATION/RESPONSES/COMMENTS BY PARENTS/COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

NONE

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session) - EXECUTIVE SESSION OPENS at 2:14 PM

Motion to close Open Session and open Closed Session. Motion by Mr. Ledesma and seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion carried unanimously

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.071: Consultation with Board attorney regarding all matters authorized by law.

Tex. Gov't Code §551.074: Deliberation regarding appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public school official or employee including matters regarding renewal/revisions of superintendent's contract.

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.072: Consultation and deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property as authorized by law including property leases and property acquisition.

Discussion:

Consultation with board and bond counsel regarding update on closing of properties under bond.

The board considered the short and long term plan to secure a chief financial administrator.

Consultation with board counsel regarding the district Security Audit that and the findings.

Motion to close Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session. Motion by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion carried unanimously

Reconvene after Executive Session (Closed Session) at 2:56 pm

VI. REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Superintendent's report items:

- a. Enrollment for SY 2023-2024 as of Snapshot Date, October 27, 2023, Update
- b. Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) Submission, Update
- c. Discussion of Intruder Detection Audit Report, Update
- d. Accountability Data, Update
- e. Stronger Connections Competitive Grant Award to AAL & Safety and Facilities Enhancement (SAFE) Grant, Cycle 1 Allocation, Update
- f. Discussion of Bond Closing, Update
- g. Legislative & Texas Education Agency (TEA) Updates

Discussions: A look at the snapshot of the school enrollment. There was a loss in enrollment at the Belfort campus. The district will conduct a targeted and focused campaign to regain the loss and to boost numbers at all campuses. James Douglas asked for the cause in the declined enrollment. The answer to that question is being investigated and will be presented to the board.

The MEOP Plan was submitted with a slight revision to address the new train derailment protocol. Superintendent provided an Overview of the intruder detection audit and reported the award to the district under the Stronger Connections Competitive Grant and an expected award from the SAFE Grant.

The district is considered Not Rated due to a prior PIEMS issue and a rating is not expected to be awarded until February.

b) Financials:

- a. 2021-2022 Charter FIRST Public Hearing
- b. Review of Comments from TEA based on the Financial Compliance Division Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2022
- c. Review of Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) for the Year Ended August 31, 2022
- d. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Timeline with Independent Auditor McConnell & Jones
- e. Review of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Unaudited Financials Ending on August 31, 2023
- f. Discussion of Employee Incentive Pay

Discussions: The Charter FIRST Rating was a B. The district did not achieve an "A" because of incorrect data entered under indicator 17. There was also confusion with AFR that was reported to TEA, the information met the guidelines but was reported incorrectly.

There was a presentation by the audit firm McConnell and Jones. The auditors initially said that their audit would be done on January 26th 2024 which is one day before the regulatory submission date of January 27th 2024. The board objected to the brief time period to review. It was agreed that the auditors would get the audit to the board no later than January 16th 2024 but earlier if possible. There are areas of potential risk that the auditors will go over with the board after review of the information received from the district.

An overview of the unaudited budget caused Tommy Brooks to request an explanation of the leasehold numbers. The explanation resolved the inquiry.

The superintendent reported that ESSER I and II were closed out and ESSER III funds are now available. This led to incentive pay discussion. Dr. Veda Brown wanted an explanation on why ESSER funds could not be used for incentive pay since they are "use it or lose it" funds. Superintendent said the funds can be used for some payments to teachers but has to be limited to fit the purpose and goals of the funds. Dr. Brown wanted to know why there was a deficit for the incentives paid to employees when the board previously approved a budget with a different allocation for incentives. James Douglas opined that it is not the job of the board to review all the employee evaluations. Dr. Brown stated that this was an unusual circumstance that should require consideration since this was the first complaint of this nature during her tenure with the board. She said that no complaint from an employee has ever been brought to the board and she wants these allegations taken seriously and fleshed out. Superintendent Brandon Chandler stated that he informed employees that they could get up to \$4,500 in incentive pay but that it was not guaranteed. Former Superintendent Doris Robins was asked to join the conversation. She stated that there was always incentive pay for employees but ESSER allowed for some additional incentive pay. She stated that ranges were determined by category and that the ranges for a nurse category was \$1,000-\$1,500. The board voted to table the discussion on incentive pay to the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The motion was moved by Dr. Veda Brown, seconded by J Douglas and passed unanimously.

c) Governance – Board of Directors:

- a. TEA Annual Governance Reporting
- b. Related-Party Transaction and Fraud Risk Questionnaire for Annual Financial Audit FY2022-2023

Discussion: The board was given Governance Reporting and Fraud Questionnaires to complete and submit.

VII. ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

a) Consider Motion to approve TEKS Certification 2023-2024 Form

Motion to Approve TEKS Certification 2023-2024 Form by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

b) Consider Motion to authorize superintendent to approve award of contracts to qualified vendors in response to RFP #10-01-23 for Professional Education Services, Tutoring and Intervention Services in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Motion requested to authorize superintendent to approve award of contracts to qualified vendors in response to RFP #10-01-23 for Professional Education Services, Tutoring and Intervention Services in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. No Motion made. Item failed.

c) Consider Motion to approve the District Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion to Table the approval of the District Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion Tabled.

d) Consider Motion to ratify the selection of Regions Bank to serve as the Depository Bank of public funds for the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. Charter District.

Motion to Ratify the selection of Regions Bank to serve as the Depository Bank of public funds for the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. Charter District made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion unanimously approved.

e) Consider Motion to ratify the acquisition of property at fair market value rather than appraised value.

Motion to Ratify the acquisition of property at fair market value rather than appraised value made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

f) Consider Motion to approve the Resolution to not have a policy authorizing employing, or accepting as volunteer, chaplains at any of the AAL campuses.

Motion to Table Resolution to not have a policy authorizing employing, or accepting as volunteer, chaplains at any of the AAL campuses made by Dr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Brooks. Motion Tabled.

g) Consider Motion to approve and adopt Board Policy, Policy Group 3 – Students; Administering Medication at School (PG-3.15)

Motion to Approve and Adopt Board Policy, Policy Group 3 – Students; Administering Medication at School (PG-3.15) made by Dr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

h) Consider Motion to approve and adopt Board Policy, Policy Group 3 – Students; Medical Treatment (PG-3.14)

Motion to Approve and Adopt Board Policy, Policy Group 3 – Students; Medical Treatment (PG-3.14) by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

VIII. BOARD INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT ON ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Discussion: Make sure board packets are complete with dividers and that all information and each item is fully described on the agenda to make sure that the public can be fully aware of all aspects. Technology requested for the board to access board packets during board meetings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT 4:40 p.m.

Motion: Dr. Brown

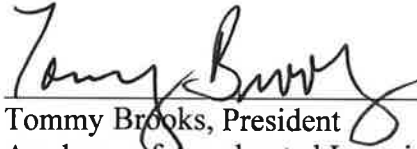
Second: Mr. Ledesma

Unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

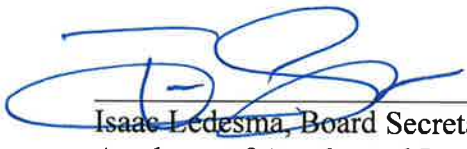
Tommy Brooks, Board President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that these minutes reflect the business of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. For the board meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.



Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.



Isaac Ledesma, Board Secretary
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.