

APPROVED



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday January 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Trustees Present

Bela Gorman (remote), Dwayne Stanley (remote), Evan Przyborowski (remote), Gregory Theos (remote), Jill Schafer (remote), Maura Webster (remote), Raul Porras (remote), Roger Jarrett (remote), Sheila Kelly (remote), Sowmini Sampath (remote)

Trustees Absent

Darren Rose

Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Guests Present

Christopher O'Keeffe (remote), Liana McLaren (remote), Mike Nawrocki (remote), Sara Snow (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Call the Meeting to Order

Raul Porras called a meeting of the board of trustees of Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Jan 4, 2024 at 6:01 PM.

The Chair announced that the meeting was being recorded but not live streaming. He wished everyone a happy new year.

The Chair called attendance.

B. Record Attendance

C. Appoint Timekeeper

Timekeeper appointed: Evan Przyborowski

D. Public Comment

There was no request for public comment.

II. Votes

A. Approve Meeting Minutes from November 30, 2023

Sheila Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 11-30-23.

Roger Jarrett seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Gregory Theos	Abstain
Dwayne Stanley	Abstain
Roger Jarrett	Aye
Evan Przyborowski	Aye
Jill Schafer	Aye
Sowmini Sampath	Abstain
Darren Rose	Absent
Bela Gorman	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Raul Porras	Aye
Sheila Kelly	Aye

B. STEM Soaring Eagles Member Nomination

Chris O'Keeffe introduced Eugenia (Gina) Nabokin as a STEM Soaring Eagles Director. The STEM Soaring Eagles Foundation is understaffed. They need between 5 and 12 Directors.

There were only had four. Gina makes it five. She brings her experience with Bank of America and her small business networks. She has a good understanding of the bylaws,

and what do we want the foundation to be, and work with. Gina is highly qualified and personally known to Craig Holbrook.

Chris, Lisa, and Liana had a meeting to discuss the job description for a director of the STEM Foundation. They will report their work to the board at a later time. They want to align the description as having the STEM Soaring Eagles Foundation serve as the right hand to Development.

Raul Porras made a motion to to approve EUGENIA NABOKIN as a STEM Soaring Eagle Director.

Bela Gorman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Sheila Kelly	Aye
Dwayne Stanley	Abstain
Jill Schafer	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Roger Jarrett	Aye
Raul Porras	Aye
Bela Gorman	Aye
Darren Rose	Absent
Gregory Theos	Aye
Sowmini Sampath	Aye
Evan Przyborowski	Aye

Chris O'Keeffe left the meeting at 6:10pm.

III. Capital Campaign Update

A. Update

Maura Webster recognized Marcy Eckel for her success with raising online donations. She raised over 10K from 50 donations for the end of year giving. She thanked the school community and all the families for stepping up. Keep up the good work!

IV. ED Update

A. Update

See attached ED report.

Dr. Mobley explained how charter schools are funded. Being informed on how tuition money is distributed to charter schools will help our community understand why we need to run capital campaigns and annual giving drives.

Net School spending. (Above Foundation Level) is a formula that sending districts use to base the tuition they give us.

The state takes the foundation level of our sending towns and calculates a charter base rate.

When towns use federal money it lowers the amount of funding from our sending towns.

Charter Schools are not able to get money for buildings.

Charter Schools will continue to ask for a raise to our facilities rate.

Bela added that we are relying to what our sending towns spends. If a town spends less we get less. It is important for our families to understand how we are funded.

We have established a new partnership with CloudWave.

They offer scholarships at the end of the year.

Lisa had a productive lunch at the Rotary luncheon.

She was pleased to report that 90% of staff attended the holiday staff party.

She met with her Admin team to discuss a potential emergency closing.

Lisa brought Elf on a Shelf to AMSA...the kids loved it!

Raul suggested that if a board member does not understand something, they are encouraged to request an explanation or ask for information to be shared. Raul is focused on providing ongoing education opportunities for the board.

V. Building Project

A. Update

Liana. See attached presentation.

The building project and budget is on track!

The building project is going well, however, she is unable to say the same for the roof on 199.

VI. Welcome New Parent Representative

A. On 12/27/2023, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the addition of Dwayne Stanley to the school's board membership.

The Board welcomed Dwayne Stanley as the new Parent Representative to the Board.

He was approved by the Commissioner on December 27.

Dwayne said he has not reached out to parents yet, but he plans to contact families soon.

He would like to see a two way communication between the Board and families.

VII. Faculty Rep Update

A. Update

Greg Theos said he had nothing to add as it has been very quiet. December is hectic and now they are getting back to work so he expects he will have much to report at the next BOT meeting.

VIII. Chair Business

A. Establish Contract Negotiation Task Force

The Negotiation Task Force was a one year term. They just finished negotiations with the Department Chairs. The Board needs to start another Task Force for the Teacher Negotiations.

Raul, Roger, and Jill are on the Task Force and welcome Lisa, Liana and Mike.

They would like another trustees to join the Task Force who is not leaving in June, as the terms for Roger, Raul,, and Jill will expire at the end of the school year.

Roger volunteered to remain on Task Force if needed.

Sowmini said it was important that members shadow correctly, making sure the board has the right expertise passed along. There needs to be constant recruitment efforts.

Lisa mentioned she is scheduling a Task Force meeting on Monday, January 8. Please send your availability.

Jill reported a new attorney was hired to facilitate negotiations. They will not be working with Joe Bartulis any longer. Having a new attorney will help with strategy planning. They interviewed two firms and it was unanimous to go with MURPHY, HESSE, TOOMEY AND LEHANE . Our goal is to wrap this up well before June.

Mike, Amanda, Liana, and Lisa have been reviewing the contract. They hope to find common ground. Some language needs to be cleared up. They need to get the teacher contract settled first before they can settle the Department Chair contract.

B. Committee Goals and Strategic Planning Meeting Update

Lisa and Raul will meet to discuss the agenda for the January 27 Strategic Planning Meeting. The Board will meet at AMSA in person, probably with a 9:00am start. They want to focus on long term strategies that are not repetitive. We can take goals for this year and put it into long term goals. Performance indicators, and what to focus on.

They want to evolve the Board's existing goals and determine what they want to measure. There will be more details to come.

C. Appoint a Trustee to serve as the liaison to STEM Soaring Eagles.

How do we revamp the relationship between the Development Committee and STEM Soaring Eagles Foundation? It would be ideal to have a board member serve as a liaison to the Foundation The Board will be making this appointment. They need to work

together. The Foundation has been very independent and it is important to restructure in the spirit of collaboration.

They are working on a Job description that will articulate methods of communication and coordination.

They also want to have goals around establishing a partnership that will encourage development and strategic planning.

Potential board training topics would include the charter renewal.

Raul action: How do educate the Board about the renewal? Make it part of board meeting?

Roger suggested a review on OML. We already have it, but it is good to have on the list.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Update

Bela provided the Finance Committee update.

The committee spent the last two meetings talking about goals and progress was made.

They have documented their goals in BoardOnTrack.

Procedures are in place that will provide access for a proper review for all existing financial policies. They have been put in one place. and they will review periodically.

They want to have the long term in mind.

Communication and educating the community is a must as well as having the proper onboarding material for new Board members.

B. Education Committee Report

Roger provided the Education Committee update.

Their next meeting is on January 11. They will be preparing for the family and staff surveys.

In the past there was a separate Survey Task Force in past. However, the Education Committee has taken this task, Raul will join them to share his experience.

C. Governance Committee Report

Sheila reported that Governance did not meet in December. They will meet next week on January 10. We are assigning tasks to members and checking progress.

Topics include:

Employee Handbook Review

Calendar 2024-2025

Looking at committee and member tasks

D. Development Committee Report

Maura reported that the Development Committee will continue to discuss goals and the overlap between Development and the Imagine Committee. They will discuss who might serve as the liaison to the STEM Soaring Eagles Foundation. They will continue with tasks that will move the campaign forward.

Save the date meet at school. details will follow.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Bela Gorman made a motion to adjourn.

Raul Porras seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Jill Schafer	Aye
Sowmini Sampath	Aye
Gregory Theos	Aye
Raul Porras	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Dwayne Stanley	Aye
Evan Przyborowski	Aye
Bela Gorman	Aye
Darren Rose	Absent
Roger Jarrett	Aye
Sheila Kelly	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Snow

Documents used during the meeting

- 1-04-24 BOT PCO List 12.15.23.pdf
- 1-04-24 BOT AMSA Tracking Budget 12-6-23.pdf
- 1-04-24 BOT AMSA Academic Building Update.pptx
- Eugenia Nabokin Resume 04-2022 (1).docx
- January 2024 ED Report (1).pdf