

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 **BOARD MEETING 2:00 P.M.**

VENUE: **ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING DISTRICT OFFICE**
5300 N. Braeswood, Suite 8 Houston, Texas 77096

I. CALL TO ORDER President Brooks called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm

Quorum Established

In attendance -

Board members: Tommy Brooks, Percy Creuzot, Veda Brown, James Douglas

Absent: Isaac Ledesma

Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Yolanda Cunningham

Counsel: Marcia Johnson and Lockett A. Johnson

Other: Attorney Denise Pierce via zoom

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Brooks 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 January 23, 2024.

Motion to approve minutes of January 23, 2024 board meeting made by James Douglas; second by Percy Creuzot. Motion carried unanimously

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

NONE

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session) - EXECUTIVE
SESSION OPENS at 3:13 PM**

Motion to recess Open Session and convene Closed Session. Motion by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion carried unanimously

As Authorized by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code § Section 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.0821, 551.087, 551.129 et seq.

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: Attorney consultation on matter requiring legal advice as well as Real Property.

Motion to close Closed Session and resume Open Session. Motion by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion carried unanimously

Executive Session (Closed Session) reconvened at 3:18 pm

James Douglas, who had left part of the closed session returned to open meeting at 3:18 pm

VI. REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Superintendent's Report:

- a. Student Accountability Data Update -TAPR and Federal Report Card as it Ties to Strategic Plan Goals (AAL Goal 4b: Achieve 90% or greater academic standard for 100% of students on the Texas STAAR exam by 2028 with incremental increases to achievement each year beginning in 2023.)
- b. Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) Re-Submission, Update
- c. Federal Grants Application Plan and Summaries, ESSER III Six (6) Month Review
- d. Projected Enrollment Update and Open-Enrollment Calendar
- e. Legislative & Texas Education Agency (TEA) Updates

f. Report and Discussion Regarding Allowing Chaplains as Volunteers on AAL Campuses

b) **Financials:**

- a. Review of Financials and Internal Controls Plan Since Completion of the 2023 Financial Audit
- b. Discussion of Employee Incentive Pay

c) **Governance – Board of Directors**

- a. Board Training Opportunities

Discussion: Superintendent presented the student accountability data and reported that the scores did not meet minimally acceptable expectations. The Superintendent reported the areas of the greatest performance deficiencies and described the various initiatives to improve student outcomes including tutors, principal and teacher training. Superintendent said that he took staff to a fundamental five training session and routinely monitors principals and visits classrooms. Emphasis was placed on what the district needed to do to enhance student learning and increase scoring moving forward. Numerous suggestions were advanced by board members. Douglas wanted to make sure that the students understand why reading is important. Dr. Brown wanted to know what kind of assistance will be deployed and will those efforts be forward thinking both in approach and the effective use of student-preferred technology. President Brooks asked whether any of the initiatives deployed in the past was effective. For example, he asked for the matrix used to determine the effectiveness of the earlier tutorial programs. Board members also expressed their feelings that there needs to be more critical thinking introduced into the classroom and incorporated into all lesson plans.

Superintendent also reported that the scaled performance score does not result in a strike but can negatively impact things that the district may want to participate in going forward like its expansion amendments and bond request. The Superintendent then identified his developing plan to raise all the scores during the next testing cycle.

President Brooks requested the superintendent present at the next board meeting a specific plan to substantially increase academic scores. The president stressed that the most important job of the school and the board is EDUCATING THE STUDENTS. Board members added their desire to see a strategy that addresses, for example, the quality of tutorials, parental involvement, teacher engagement and education to look closer at what needs to be changed to improve student learning and the scores.

The Superintendent next reported that the district MEOP plan was resubmitted and approved. Mr. Chandler reported that Esser III funds are being used to overcome the learning loss attributed to Covid as well as other appropriate expenses. Superintendent Chandler announced that the district is the recipient of a Stronger Connections Grant which is a one-time two year grant. He plans to hire a grant manager who will ensure all grant requisites are met. Finally, Mr. Chandler reported that enrollment projections show an increase in students.

Mrs. Cunningham gave an overview of the financial status of the district and on measures taken after the audit to ensure best practices, including timely requests for draw-downs for normal operations. Cunningham also discussed YTD and overview of the budget. She also provided a breakdown of the balance sheet after the bonds, identifying those areas that will be expensed over the life of the bonds.

At this point in the meeting, James Douglas left at 4:06pm. Quorum still exists.

Cunningham reported that the February interest payment on the bond is due mid-February. She also reported a discrepancy in the numbers that resulted from a data entry glitch with the software that will be corrected shortly. The financial team is meeting to come up with a plan to improve overall financial reporting by developing additional procedures that make sure internal controls ensure the system runs at the highest possible level. The team is incorporating the auditor's recommendation to create and use an accountability checklist.

Mrs. Cunningham also reported that there was an unemployment issue that was not timely recognized through Skyward that was corrected and will be reflected on the next financial statement and balance sheet.

President Brooks requested a progress report with itemized list of issues with the financial team so that the board can see the progress as it pertains to each issue.

James Douglas returned to the meeting at 4:17. Quorum still exists.

Mr. Creuzot requested investment options for the cash balances in order to increase revenue. Tex Pool as one option identified for those funds. There should be a presentation of this information on the next meeting.

Board training opportunities were discussed.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Consider Motion to approve the AAL 2024-2025 Academic Calendar

Motion to Approve the AAL 2024-2025 Academic Calendar by Mr. Creuzot, seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

- b) Consider Motion 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 to Approve award of contracts to qualified vendors that scored in excess of 60 points in response to RFP #10-01-23 for Professional Education Services, Tutoring and

Intervention Services in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Motion to Approve the District Improvement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

- d) Consider Motion to approve the Resolution to File Expansion Amendment to Add Additional Campus or Site, Add Additional Grade Levels, and Increase Maximum Student Enrollment in the 2025-2026 School Year

Motion to Approve the Resolution to File Expansion Amendment to Add Additional Campus or Site, Add Additional Grade Levels, and Increase Maximum Student Enrollment in the 2025-2026 School Year by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

- e) Consider Motion authorizing Board President, Superintendent, and Counsel to negotiate terms to acquire certain real property for use as school facilities

Motion to Approve and Authorize the Board President, Superintendent, and Counsel to negotiate terms to acquire certain real property for use as school facilities by Mr. Creuzot, seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion approved 3-0-1. James Douglas Abstained

- f) Consider Motion to approve the AAL Business Plan as part of its application for Charter Amendment for Expansion

After presentation by Mr. Chandler and consideration by the board, Motion to Approve and Adopt the AAL Business Plan as part of its application for Charter Amendment for Expansion by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

- g) 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 Approve and Adopt the Resolution to not have a policy that is subject to amendment or revision authorizing employing, or accepting as volunteer, chaplains at any of the AAL campuses by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Creuzot.

The superintendent presented four options for consideration by the board, one of which was the superintendent's recommendation that the board vote to not have a policy. The other options favored a policy which various conditions. The board considered all

options, however, Dr. Brown was not satisfied with the presentation which she believed was biased against having chaplains in the district. She made a fourth request to have presentations by chaplains organizations at the next board meeting to determine whether the board would want to revisit the issue. Dr. Brown also requested a survey of the parents to determine what they would like.

Motion approved unanimously as follows:

Board member Creuzot: Aye

Board member Brown: Aye because the motion provides for reconsideration of the policy as needed.

Board member Douglas: Aye

Board President Brooks: Aye

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

Discussion: The board needs to consider board expansion and establishing board committees.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Creuzot

Second: Mr. Douglas

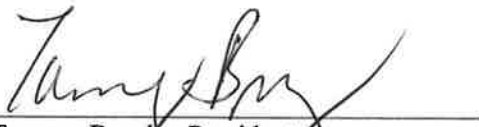
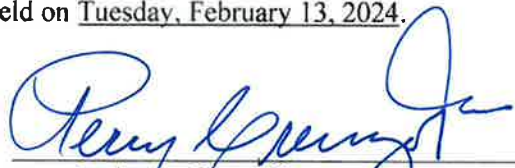
Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.



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, February 13, 2024.


Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.
Isaac Ledesma, Board Secretary
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.