

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **Tuesday, April 23, 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 2:00 pm. A quorum was established.

Board members in attendance were Tommy Brooks, Percy Creuzot, Veda Brown, James Douglas. Board member Isaac Ledesma was not in attendance. AAL superintendent, Brandon Chandler, along with school counsel Marcia Johnson and her consulting associate Luckett A. Johnson. Invited guests from the National School Chaplain Association, Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Malloy were also present.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

III. READING OF THE AAL, INC. MISSION, VISION, AND GOALS

Board member, Percy Creuzot read the AAL Mission, Vision, and Goals. Board member, James Douglas recommended aligning the goals with the Mission as it relates to high school.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member James Douglas moved and Mr. Percy Creuzot seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the special called board meeting convened on February 13, 2024. Motion carried unanimously

PRESENTATION/RESPONSES/COMMENTS BY PARENTS/COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

Presenters from the Chaplain Association reported on the benefits of having chaplains consult with students. They reported that there is data that failure to provide spiritual guidance has a litany of negative effects on school-aged children. They also reported that Chaplain daily presence at schools reduced teacher attrition. The presenters were familiar with situations where occurrences of sexual abuse weren't addressed because counselors were not available to treat or talk with the children. The chaplains discussed with board members how they would address these and other situations in order to reach more successful results. They

recommended that the board implement a policy that would provide that the school would train the chaplains before they would be able to be on campus. After numerous questions from board members and discussion with presenters, Presenters concluded their presentation and left the meeting.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session) - *EXECUTIVE SESSION OPENS*

At 2:43 p.m., Mr. Creuzot moved to recess open session and open executive session. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Executive Session was opened for discussions under the following applicable laws:

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.

A. Superintendent's annual performance evaluation

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.

Closed Discussion included Superintendent Contract Negotiations and Evaluation and Real Property leases and purchase updates.

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

James Douglas left the meeting at 2:50 pm

Executive Session (Closed Session) closed and open session reconvened at 4:22 pm

VI. REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS--The Superintendent Reported

- a. on the Presentation by National School Chaplain's Association; and
- b. Provided an Update on Amendment for Expansion Submitted to Texas Education Agency informing the board that TEA denied the expansion amendments with an explanation that has been provided in the board

packets.; and

- c. Provided Legislative & Texas Education Agency (TEA) Updates including reporting on Dan Patrick's Interim Legislative Charges for schools and testing; governmental funds didn't help close the academic performance gaps exacerbated by COVID shut-down. There was significant discussion on how to close the gaps of the lost learning caused by the two years of covid learning loss and why certain communities were more directly hit by the loss. The board chair requested the Superintendent provide his plan for improving student academic performance at AAL.
Proposed legislative item to eliminate school property taxes and its potential impact were also discussed.

b) Financials:

Review of Financials and Liabilities (Bond and Lease Payments)

The Superintendent gave an overview of the current financial state of AAL reporting that the school's financial health is strong but that there was an increase in expenditures year over year due to having to staff up a different location.

The Superintendent presented the board with the parental survey sent from outside counsel that had been presented to District parents. Dr. Brown thought the survey was biased in a way that certain desired responses would be elicited. Her position was that children and parents should be able to choose whether they would have access to a chaplain in time of crisis. The question before the board was not whether parents and children should have access but whether that access to faith and spiritual guidance be provided in the school district.

Additional discussion centered around the policy itself and how it could be written to address the concerns of all board members.

VII. APPROVE ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY.

Consider Superintendent's Contract: On motion to Approve Superintendent's Contract for a term from 2024-29 at an annual salary of \$210,000.00 by Mr. Creuzot was seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion unanimously approved.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

TEKS certification: On Motion to Approve TEKS Certification 2024-25 Form by Mr. Creuzot, was seconded by Dr. Brown. Motion unanimously approved.

Coastal Bend Employees: *Motion to Approve Interlocal Agreement with Coastal Bend Employees Benefit Insurance Cooperative effective September 1, 2024 by Mr. Creuzot, as seconded by Dr. Brown was unanimously approved.*

RISE 457 Plan: *Motion to Approve Higginbotham Public Sector as RISE 457 Plan Administrator Effective September 1, 2024 was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.*

Chimney Rock: *Motion to Approve lease extension for the Chimney Rock campus and authorize legal counsel and Superintendent to negotiate lease terms for extension was made by Dr. Brown, and seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.*

PSF bonds guarantee: *Motion to Approve Resolution to request the permanent school fund guarantee of bonds and authorizing the administration to pursue bond financing to finance educational facilities, authorizing the engagement of bond and borrower's counsel, and containing other matters related thereto. **TABLED***

Intent to Finance Expenditures: *Motion to Approve and Adopt Resolution to express the intent to finance expenditures to be incurred prior to the issuance of bonds to be reimbursed by bond funds. **TABLED***

Finance Educational Facilities: *Motion to approve the board of directors authorizing borrowing from a charter school finance corporation to finance educational facilities, selecting a financing team and the execution and delivery of certain documents related thereto, and containing other matters related thereto. **TABLED***

Chaplains as Volunteers: *Dr. Brown's Motion to Approve and Adopt Resolution and Board Policy, Policy Group 4 Authorizing Chaplains as Volunteers Who May Provide Support, Services, and Programs for Students died for lack of second.*

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

Discussion: Chaplain item to be placed on next meeting. Superintendent needs to present education plan at next board meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Creuzot;

Second: Dr. Brown;

Unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 5:04 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, April 23, 2024.



Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.



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