

AFSA K-12 Work Session Minutes, K-8 Cafeteria

March 19, 2024

4:01 - 5:03pm

Board Members Present: Becky Meyer, Kate Plaisance, Jenny Cook, Julie Cox, Jack Roessler, Kerry Schulte, Brady Jones, Leslie Scherer.

Board Members Absent: David Smith, Scott Stene, Erik Bruner-Wiltse

Guests: Teresa Kothbauer, Kelly Lewis, Liz Burkwald, Bill Llyod, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Lunch Program:** Bill Llyod presented to the Board the "Say Yes! to School Meals" Photo Contest hosted by Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) award that AFSA won. He also talked in great detail and answered the Board's questions about a recent audit the kitchen meal program underwent, how AFSA's meals are freshly homemade as much as possible, as well as the nutritional requirements met by the meal program.
2. **Strategic Plan Overview**
 - **Marketing goal:** Reported by Becky Meyer, Erik Bruner-Wiltse is working on student/family recruitment. There is a new AFSA billboard in the area of eastbound Hwy 36 in White Bear, MN starting on April 1, 2024 (04/01/24), Summer Community Night/Kindergarten round up is on April 11, 2024 (04/11/24) and will be available to all community members and prospective families.
 - **Diversity Goal:** The board brainstormed ideas on how to have more diverse field trips/speakers, and came up with the idea of a google form for staff to contribute their previous positive experiences on Urban and BIPOC focused field trips/speakers to. The information captured by the google form would be turned into a spreadsheet so all teachers could access it for future use.
 - **Ag. Committee:** Jack Roesler talked about the Ag. Committee and it's support for AFSA, they are currently focused on giving feedback on the ag. Curriculum and do not need additional support from the school board at this time. The Ag. Committee meets quarterly (once every trimester and once over the summer), Next meeting date: TBD.

3. **OW Observation Feedback:** Osprey Wilds would like to see more discussion from the Board about student body academic performance instead of it only being reported to the Board.
4. **Training Updates:** Discussion of adding a slot on the agenda for people who just completed a professional development training to present what they've learned, training on the expectations of the Board from Osprey Wilds so that all members know what to expect and the goals we are working towards.
5. **Election:** 2 Parents have expressed interest in running in the Board member elections, no Teachers or Community members yet.

B. ADJOURN

Adjourning time: 5:03pm

AFSA K-12 Board of Education Meeting Minutes, K-8 Cafeteria

March 19, 2024

5:03 - 6:23pm

Board Members Present: Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Becky Meyer, Kate Plaisance, Jenny Cook, Julie Cox, Jack Roessler, Kerry Schulte, Brady Jones, Leslie Scherer, Scott Stene.

Board Members Absent: David Smith

Guests: Teresa Kothbauer, Addie Mazza, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 1. Call to Order:** Kate Plaisance called the meeting to order at 5:01pm
 - a. Mission:** The Academy for Science and Agriculture (AFSA), a public charter school for grades K-12, engages learners in academically rigorous, student-centered, hands-on experiences and leadership opportunities within a science, environmental education, and agricultural context.
 - b. Vision:** AFSA will develop lifelong learners who are curious, care for others, have high skill levels in applied sciences, and will be prepared for a future in a diverse, global, and changing society. We
 - c. Honoring Native Peoples:** We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Dakota people, and pay our respect to elders both past and present.
- 2. Determination of Quorum:** A quorum of board members is present.
- 3. Determination of Conflict of interest on any agenda items:** No conflicts of interest were noted.

Approve agenda: Brady Jones moved to approve of the agenda, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Julie Cox moved to approve the minutes as circulated, seconded by Kerry Schulte, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report: Becky Meyer presented the Financial Report; including the payment of invoices and the acceptance of gifts. Brady Jones moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Leslie Scherer, motion passed unanimously.

B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS

Kelly Lewis. SPED Program.

Kelly Lewis presented on Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services that are available to AFSA's students within the Special Education Program. (ex. Assistance in development of soft and life skills, and secondary school options). She also talked in great detail and answered the Board's questions on how between both buildings (K-6

and 7-12) Liz Burkwald and Kelly Lewis help get students evaluations and qualify them based on diagnosis to build an IEP, the federal setting levels that AFSA services (Levels 1-3), MDE random file checks, and the community she builds within her staff to support them so they can support the kids. Kelly's biggest goals are education, building inclusion, and creating a sense of belonging for all of AFSA's SPED students.

C. GUEST COMMENTS

None

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. School Activities Reports:** Liz Burkwald shared that the STARR testing results are great so far in both ELA and Math sections (K-6), The Science Fair was a huge success (K-6), MCAs are upcoming starting after Spring break, Tri 3 has started and specialists have switched (K-6), Report cards from Tri 2 with STARR testing results have been sent home (K-6), MN Corn Growers assembly was a success with grades K-4, and March field trips (K-6).

Becky Meyer shared about Softball and Baseball teams starting their practice (7-12), the presentation night was a success, students in the Martial Arts club were given a chance to test for their belts (7-12), Charter School day success at the State Capital, 7-12 State Science Fair went great (35% of AFSA Students that attended are able to move on to the next round), College Campus trips: recently toured UW Stout and an upcoming tour at UMN (7-12), March field trips (7-12).

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Board Communication Report: Presented by Leslie Scherer**
 - Update the grievance forms/policy information available on AFSA's website to better direct potential guest commentators.
- 2. Executive Director Search Update:**
 - Applications will be open for a month
 - MSBA will screen applications and give the Search Group 6 applicants to review
 - Interview rounds will be April 29, 2024 (ZOOM), and May 1, 2024 (In-Person)
 - Top 3 applicants's resumes will be anonymously presented to the Board to discuss and choose the final applicant from.
- 3. Recognition of Liz Burkwald:**

The board would like to formally recognize and thank Liz Burkwald for her hard work and dedication to AFSA. This school year, Liz has continued to lead the elementary building while also serving as special education coordinator. She has

taken on the challenges of coaching many new staff, working through staffing shortages, leading special education meetings, writing IEPs, and following due process procedures, and executing her duties as building academic director - all while continuing to coordinate school events and maintaining a sense of familiarity and safety for the students that attend AFSA K-6. Working hours well beyond her anticipated schedule and being present and participatory in every school event, Liz helps to ensure that not only the elementary building but AFSA as a district runs smoothly.

She does this with a sense of positivity and hopefulness that is conveyed to the staff and students of her building. From the AFSA board of directors, thank you for all that you do.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Executive Director Contract Extension (Extending Becky Meyer's contract to April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024) :** Julie Cox motioned to approve the extended contract, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Staff Salaries/Wages for FY25 (Becky presented):** Kerry Schulte motioned to approve the Staff Salaries/Wages for FY25, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. School Calander FY25 (Becky Presented):** Brady Jones motioned for the approval of the FY25 School calendar, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Work Session and Regular Board Meeting scheduled for **April 23 2024 at 5:00pm**

H. ADJOURNMENT

Leslie Scherer motioned to adjourn the meeting, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:23pm.