

AFSA K-12
Work Session Minutes
Elementary Cafeteria

November 28, 2023

4:00 - 5:02 pm

AGENDA TOPICS

Board Members Present: Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox, David Smith, Leslie Scherer, Jennifer Cook, Brady Jones, Jack Roessler, and [Kerry Schulte](#)

Board Members Absent: Scott Stene

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Impact of Law Changes. Becky Meyer led a discussion on the updated laws and how those laws pertain to AFSA. Highlighted were discipline alternatives to suspension and exclusion, updates to be made to currently policy. Suspensions are excused absences where work needs to be provided along with time to make up work. Schools are not allowed to withhold recess. Becky Meyer gave clarification to what is considered to be reasonable force. Updates also to Active Shooter Drills, which at this time AFSA does not participate in due to guidelines that need to be followed and they are not required. Updated laws pertaining to student and family directories, currently AFSA only has a parent "OPT-IN" directory. MN state law will require schools to include education on cannabis and ethnic studies, guidance to be provided by MDE in the future. Finally new laws in regards to staff sick and safe time, which the board will need to make changes to current policy and allotment in the near future.
2. Strategic Plan Updates. Kate Plaisance asked for any edits or corrections. None were mentioned by the board members. Kate Plaisance asked to move to approve the Strategic Plan as written to the board meeting Action Item. It was agreed to move.
3. Areas of Opportunity - Annual Report. Kate Plaisance led a discussion on enrollment and ways to increase enrollment and AFSA visibility. Ideas for increased digital marketing were discussed.
4. Top 3 Goals. Goals were briefly discussed due to time constraints. Will discuss further and can be adjusted at next contract time with Osprey Wilds.

B. ADJOURN at 5:02

AFSA K-12
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING - Minutes
Elementary Cafeteria

November 28, 2023

5:03 - 6:07 pm

AGENDA

Board Members Present: Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox, David Smith, Leslie Scherer, Jennifer Cook, Brady Jones, Jack Roessler, and [Kerry Schulte](#)

Board Members Absent: Scott Stene

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call to Order
 - a. **Mission:** The Academy for Sciences 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 and have high skill levels in applied sciences, and will be prepared for a future in a diverse, global and changing society
 - 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
4. Approve Agenda - Julie Cox moved to approve the agenda with the amendment of approving the Strategic Plan to Action Item 3. Brady Jones seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes - Dave Smith moved to approve the minutes as circulated, seconded by Leslie Scherer, motion passed unanimously
6. Approval of Financial Report. [Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#) presented the Financial Report including the payment of invoices and the acceptance of gifts. Dave Smith moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Kerry Schulte, motion passed unanimously.

B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS

[Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#) introduced Sam Wakefield, Dean of Students at the Highschool. Sam Wakefield introduced himself and what his role is at the Highschool. He explained how the highschool staff are working on student behaviors and how those behaviors are tracked and reported. He is also working with staff to give them tools and resources to successfully work with students who need additional support.

C. GUEST COMMENTS - None

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. School Activities Reports. Erik Bruner-Wiltse gave updates on activities at the High School. Currently there are 252 students enrolled. Basketball season has started, HS musical will be performing 12/14-12/16, and NHS held their Barn Dance for students. FFA fruit sale had sales over \$6,700 which approx 30% will go to AFSA FFA group. Liz Burkwald gave an update on activities at the K-6 school. Currently there are 134 students enrolled. Star Assessments have just been completed, Presentation Night is this week for K-6. Currently there are 19 lottery applications for next year's enrollment. K-6 just wrapped up their annual Equal Exchange fundraiser.
2. Administrative Report. Becky Meyer gave Administrative updates. She just received notification that the State of MN will be reimbursing schools (approx 80%) through a grant to cover unemployment expenses for staff during the summer months.
3. Committee Reports - Erik Bruner-Wiltse gave an update on the Ag Advisory committee. The plan is to have a kick off event in early January to engage more members. Marketing/Recruitment gave an update on the survey that was emailed to families. Erik Bruner-Wiltse also mentioned that he is learning more about Instagram and how to use that to reach more students. Diversity gave an update as far as trying to reach out and make connections with local businesses and speakers for field trips and guest speakers.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Environmental Literacy Plan Review. Liz Burkwald and [Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#) presented the updated ELP which has been approved by Osprey Wilds. Discussion centered around the 5 Educational Goals.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. Updated Wellness Policy. Becky read the updates that were made to the Wellness Policy. AFSA has had a Wellness Policy since 2006 and the updates were primarily to align the policy with AFSA's mission and visions. Brady Jones made a motion to approve the AFSA Wellness Policy, Julie Cox seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
2. Student and Staff Handbook Amendments. Becky Meyer read the updates to the Staff Handbook. Erik Bruner-Wiltse read the updates to the HS Student Handbook. Jack Roessler made a motion to approve the Student and Staff Handbook Amendments. Leslie Scherer, seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
3. Strategic Plan. Kate Plaisaince gave the updates to the Strategic Plan from the previous work session and meeting. Julie Cox made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Dave Smith seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next meeting:
 - a. Regular meeting December 19, 2023 at 5 pm

H. ADJOURNMENT

Dave motioned to adjourn the meeting. Leslie Scherer seconded, the motion passed unanimously. **Adjourned at 6:27**