

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

February 27, 2024

4:05 - 4:45pm

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. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Leadership Structure:** Erik Bruner-Wiltse announced that he will no longer be interested in taking the position of Executive Director, he prefers to stay as Building Principal. The board proposes to use a search firm search to find someone who will fill this position. The board needs to decide on a new contract for Becky Meyer (current contract ends March 31st), possibility of just extending current contract (decision to be made next meeting). Kate Plaisance presented the option of MNMSBA.com (Minnesota School Board Association) as a potential search asset to filling Executive Director position. Discussion of potential search committee (one person per section of the board Teacher/Parent/Community), Jack Roessler (Teacher), Jenny Cook (Parent), and Julie Cox (Community) volunteered to be the committee. Vote to come during School Board meeting.
- 2. Teacher Feedback:** Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented the feedback gathered from staff following last month's meeting. The response has led to ongoing improvements to increase communication between staff and admin, foster the relationship between the K-6 and 7-12 buildings, staff support through mentorship programs and student behavior support, as well as many other actions being taken.

B. ADJOURN

Adjourning time: 4:45pm

AFSA K-12 Board of Education Meeting Minutes, K-8 Cafeteria February 27, 2024 5:01 - 6:12pm

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

Approval of Minutes: Leslie Scherer moved to approve the minutes as circulated, seconded by Julie Cox, motion passed with Jenny Cook abstaining from the vote.

Approval of Financial Report: Erik Bruner-Wiltse presented the Financial Report; including the payment of invoices and the acceptance of gifts. Kerry Schulte moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Brady Jones, motion passed unanimously.

B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS

None

C. GUEST COMMENTS

Addie Mazza introduced herself as a representative of Osprey Wild, Teresa Kothbauer introduced herself as a parent. Leslie Scherer shared postcards that were written and sent out to her children by the K-6 building staff and how much her family appreciated them.

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. School Activities Reports:** Becky Meyer shared about the STARR and ACCESS testing that just happened (K-6), upcoming science fair (K-6), Black History Month projects and curriculum that has been happening at the K-6 building, Winter Carnival and Literacy night successes, I love to read month, and February field trips (K-6).
Erik Bruner-Wiltse shared about the STARR and ACCESS testing that just happened (7-12), the final boys basketball game of the season, upcoming presentation night (7-12), Ag. night and FFA week successes (7-12), FFA day success and upcoming Charter School day at the State Capital, 7-12 science fair success (104 students invited to State science fair), February field trips (7-12)
- 2. Committee Reports:** Board election coming up - Becky Meyer will send out an email to parents and teachers for the potential to run for a position on the AFSA School Board. Brady Jones and Jenny Cook officially announced their running for positions.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 1. Strategic Plan - Marketing: Presented by Erik Bruner-Wiltse**
 - Sending 7-12 student leaders to Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten settings to do projects and leave advertisements.
 - Social media and targeted ads, specifically trying to target those without students enrolled at AFSA that interact with our posts.
 - Stephanie Fortili working on creating more videos as they tend to do better than still images.

- Community Night held at the 7-12 building, fun games and community based service projects with the goal of drawing in community members and K-6 families.
 - Taste of AFSA, 5th and 6th graders will go over to the 7-12 building for a day to experience what it is like. The goal is to boost retention of current 5th and 6th grade families.
- 2. Board communication guidance: Presented by Leslie Scherer**
 - Update AFSA school board website to describe how to contact board members and how to attend board meetings as a guest/non member.
 - Create a google form for guests to announce their attendance/what they will be presenting.
 - 3. Executive Director review process:** Board members as well as 1 K-6 Teacher and 1 7-12 Teacher will take a google form survey for the review. Kate Plaisance will report back the results of the surveys.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Executive Director position:** Julie Cox motioned to create search committee made up of Jack Roessler, Jenny Cook, and Julie Cox, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Insurance Renewal:** Julie Cox motioned to approve of using Maguire insurance agency, Brady Jones seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Transportation plan:** Julie Cox motioned for AFSA continuing to have its own transportation for students, Brady Jones seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 4. School meal program policy:** Jack Roessler motioned to update the meal program policy with the sentence "Provide 1 Breakfast and 1 Lunch per student", Jenny Cook seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Work Session and Regular Board Meeting scheduled for **March 19 2024 at 5:00pm**

H. ADJOURNMENT

Jenny Cook motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brady Jones seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:12pm.