

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

**May 21, 2024**  
**5:00 - 6:30 pm**  
**Minutes**

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

1. Call to Order 5:02pm

**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.

**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

**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- Dave Smith, Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox, Jack Roessler, Kerry Schulte, Scott Stene, Jenny Cook present. Not present: Brady Jones and Leslie Scherer
3. Determination of Conflict of Interest on any agenda items - none
4. Approve Agenda - Motion to approve agenda as circulated by Julie Cox, 2nd by Jenny Cook. Passed unanimously
5. Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve the minutes as written by Dave Smith, 2nd by Kerry Schulte. Passed unanimously
6. Approval of Financial Report - Motion to approve the payment of invoices and acceptance of gifts by Julie Cox, 2nd by Kerry Schulte. Passed unanimously
  - i.

**B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS - Kate Bald shared a presentation outlining the Academic supports and Interventions provided at the Elementary school.**

**C. GUEST COMMENTS** (Three minutes per presenter) - 1 guest present, no comments

**D. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. School Activities Reports - None
2. Administrative Reports
  - a. Elementary - shared by Liz Burkwald:

Academic	<p>Students are getting ready to wrap up the year in classes and celebrate their successes with our Annual Awards night! Students will be awarded for Excellence or Growth in Reading and Math, plus teachers have determined classroom awards for every student! MCAs and STAR testing were finished up last week, and data for our goals has been compiled!</p> <p>Academic Goals with OW - Elementary results:          Goal 3.1 Star Reading growth for intervention students - 59% (MEETS)          Goal 3.2 Star Reading growth - 68% (MEETS)          Goal 4.1 Star Math growth for intervention students - 69% (MEETS)          Goal 4.2 Star Math growth - 62% (MEETS)          Goal 5.1 DIBELS in 2nd grade 67% pass. (APPROACHING)</p> <p>This data will go on Academic performance Eval and Annual Report. With next year being contract renewal year, this year is the final data to determine renewal eligibility.</p>
Community & Culture	<p>Elementary Soar Slip Farmer's Market was a big hit in April! Students earned Soar Slips for demonstrating the BeAFSA pillars of Respect, Responsibility, Safety, and being their best. At the end of the month, they were able to "shop" the farmer's market for fresh fruits and veggies, lemonade, origami, or prizes! In May, students are earning their way to a Party on May 31st with a photo booth and fun prizes to purchase!</p> <p>OW Goal 8.1 is met with 11/12 enrolled by Oct 1 completing their EC screening prior to the first day of school. AFSA offers Screenings in the summer for all incoming kindergarten students. For the upcoming year, we have 2 students currently enrolled for fall that haven't completed their screening. We are working to set up those appointments for June.</p>
Mission	<p>May field trips have included trips to parks, Mill City Museum, Como Zoo, Ojibwe Medicine Garden, UWRF farm, Cardigan Ridge Senior center, and Stages theatre.</p> <p>OW Goal 1.4 will be met with 100% again this year - all students participated in at least 1 field trip in the agriculture areas.</p> <p>OW goal 1.5 is met with 100% of students taught about at least 1 ag-related career in classes this year.</p> <p>For OW Goal 1.2, the Elementary has participated in 52 cumulative hours of community service. (the goal is written K-12, but most community service hours are met through Farm &amp; Community Service days at the High School)</p>
Enrollment	<p>K-6 currently has 128 students enrolled for next year, taking into account potential mobility. There are 26 active applications for K-6.</p> <p>High school has 260 enrolled, or 234 with anticipated mobility, for a district total of 362. There are 33 HS applications active as of today.</p> <p>Total fall enrollment is currently 362, with a potential total of 421.</p>

b. High School - shared by [Erik Bruner-Wiltse](#)

### Clubs and Extracurriculars

- 4/27 - Martial Arts Competition - One 1st place, two 2nd place, and 1 3rd place in divisions. One student qualified for the Grand Championship that day.
- Softball and baseball - There was a rocky start to the season due to weather and game cancellations. Softball: 2 wins, 7 losses. Baseball: 1 win, 9 losses

### School Culture and Community

- 4/27 - Prom - Masquerade theme

- 5/1 - 6th Grade Class visit - Students rotated through four content area teachers with mini-activities in agriculture, social studies, and science. Students participated in a team-building rocket activity, worked with middle school mentor students, and ate lunch at the high school cafeteria.
- 5/31 - Senior picnic at Kohler park, senior walk/graduation parade

### **Academics**

- Completed science MCA Testing - Science on May 10
- Spring STAR reading and math testing has begun
- 5/6 - ASVAB Testing (juniors) - free and meaningful competency and interest assessment given to all juniors (*OW 9.4 - Postsecondary readiness*)
- FCSD - upcoming. All students 7-12 visiting 16 different locations for a day of community service. Includes: Kruger's tree farm, blueberry fields of Stillwater, U of M student farm, mn fresh farms, and more (*OW 1.2 - Mission Related - community service*)
- J-Term - upcoming: Iconic twin cities (target field tour, sculpture garden), Barbie (horseback riding, yoga), ASL focused (visit metro school for deaf, silent baking, silent team building),
- 6/7 - Graduation - Bethel university; 6:30pm

3. Committee Reports  
None

### **E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. School Board communication guidance for website
  - a. Leslie Scherer created a document to circulate to help people understand how to communicate with the board. Board members discussed putting it in the family newsletter at the beginning of the year with a photo and welcome message from the board.
2. Election update
  - a. Julie Cox shared that the ballots are live, encouraged people to vote by June 1st.
  - b. Jack announced his resignation from the Board, effective Jul 1, 2024 with the June 25th meeting being his last as he will no longer be employed at AFSA.

### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

1. MACS membership
  - a. Becky shared that she hasn't received the renewal documents from MACS yet. Motion to move this action item to the June 25th meeting by Kerry Schulte, 2nd by Jenny Cook. Discussion regarding timeline not being urgent for this. Passed unanimously
2. MSHSL membership
  - a. Becky explained the contract and cost per sport. She recommended maintaining the membership for the 7-12 athletics. Motion to approve renewal membership by Julie Cox, 2nd by Kerry Schulte. No discussion. Passed unanimously
3. Literacy plan
  - a. Liz Burkwald presented the plan and explained new changes required in the Read Act. The plan omits student-level data due to small sample sizes and the ability to identify individuals if it is shared publicly. Motion to approve the plan as written by Kerry Schulte, 2nd by Jack Roessler. No discussion. Passed unanimously
4. Health Benefits cost sharing option

- a. Kate reviewed the discussion from the work session. Board continued discussion about the wellness funds included with the contract and using that to offset the additional cost to the school if they vote on Option 3. Motion to approve Option 3, which adds \$10 to each employee contribution, regardless of the insurance option selected by Dave Smith, 2nd by Julie Cox. Passed 5-1 Dave, Julie, Jack, Scott, Jenny for, Kerry against.
- 5. Preliminary Budget for FY25
  - a. Becky reviewed the Preliminary budget needed to submit the application for LeaseAid. The budget is working from 435 ADM, which may change throughout the year, and a 2% overall cost increase to adjust for inflation. Motion to approve the preliminary budget by Kerry Schulte, 2nd by Julie Cox. No discussion Passed unanimously
- 6. Creative Planning contract
  - a. Reviewed from work session. Discussion about change to now be an auto-renew plan and AFSA would need to send a letter to discontinue in the future. Motion to approve contracts for AFSA and AFSA Building Company for FY25 by Dave Smith, 2nd by Kerry Schulte. Passed unanimously
- 7. Exec Director contract
  - a. Kate reviewed document. No discussion Motion to approve contract for Jamie as Executive Director by Julie Cox, 2nd by Jack Roessler. Passed unanimously

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next meeting:
  - a. Regular meeting June 25, 2024 at 5 pm

**G. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Dave Smith, 2nd by Jack Roessler. Passed unanimously**