

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

**April 23, 2024**

**4:07 - 5:06pm**

**Board Members Present:** Becky Meyer, Kate Plaisance, Scott Stene, Julie Cox, Jack Roessler, Kerry Schulte, Brady Jones, Leslie Scherer, David Smith.

**Board Members Absent:** Jenny Cook, Erik Bruner-Wiltse

**Guests:** Teresa Kothbauer, Katie Boden, Ryan Rieger, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea,

## **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Staff Benefits:** Katie Boden and Ryan Rieger presented on behalf of Gallagher, there are no changes to the Dental and Vision insurance that is available to AFSA employees. Medica initiated a renewal plan at a 11.5 % increase in price, Gallagher went to market on behalf of AFSA and got offers from Bluecross Blueshield, Alliana, and Healthpartners. Gallagher took the HealthPartners offer to Medica and were able to negotiate the renewal down to a 8.7% increase with a \$10,000 wellness credit. A vote for staying with Medica or moving to HealthPartners as AFSA's medical insurance provider will be made during the action item portion of the board meeting.
2. **Executive Director Candidate Screening:** Resumes and short passion essays from each candidate were anonymously submitted to the board. A consensus was made that all 3 candidates have strong potential to fill the position of Executive Director and would like to have all 3 for ZOOM interviews starting Monday 4/29/24 (April 29th, 2024). Brady Jones suggested that a long term AFSA teacher be added to the in-person portion of the interview. Having all 3 candidates attend ZOOM interviews given by the Search Committee and Becky Meyer will be voted on in the action item portion of the board meeting.

## **B. ADJOURN**

**Adjourning time: 5:06pm**

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

## **April 23, 2024**

### **5:06 - 6:33pm**

**Board Members Present:** Becky Meyer, Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox, Jack Roessler, Kerry Schulte, Brady Jones, Leslie Scherer, Scott Stene, David Smith.

**Board Members Absent:** Erik Bruner-Wiltse, Jenny Cook

**Guests:** Teresa Kothbauer, Emily Edstrom Moore, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea

#### **A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

- 1. Call to Order:** Kate Plaisance called the meeting to order at 5:06pm
  - 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.
  - 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:** David Smith moved to approve of the agenda, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

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

#### **B. SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS**

None

#### **C. GUEST COMMENTS**

None

## **D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**1. School Activities Reports:** Becky Meyer shared that MCA testing is currently underway for grades 3 - 11. Liz Burkwald is currently searching for and interviewing candidates for the open Agriculture, Art, Special Ed. and 4th grade teacher positions (K-6). The Kindergarten Round Up event was a success! There will be a SOAR Slip Farmers Market event available for the students in the K-6 building this week. April field trips and upcoming field trips for May (K-6). Becky Meyer also shared that nine AFSA students participated in Model UN at the YMCA. Two students were recognized by MUN advisors for their professional participation, and one student was chosen as part of the security council to consult on and address a national security emergency (7-12). Softball and Baseball have started their seasons, Go Eagles! (7-12) The Summer Community Night event was a success! (7-12). Prom and the FFA banquet are upcoming, as well as the AFSA Plant Sale (7-12).

**2. Committee Report:** Julie Cox presented the candidates that are running for the Board Elections. They are Melissa Farler (Teacher), Sandy Gralish (Parent), Jenny Cook (Parent), and David Smith (Community Member).

## **E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. OW Renewal Process:**

- The Goal is to have the new contract in place by July 2025.
- AFSA's Admin team will be emailed an application as well as an accompanying guidance form on May 1st, 2024, and is due on September 16th, 2024. The application requires approval from the school board prior to being submitted.
- A Renewal Site Visit will then take place between September and November of 2024.
- After any needed revisions are made the application will then go to the Osprey Wilds Board to be voted upon, and a final contract will be presented to AFSA in July of 2025.

### **2. OW FY23 Academic Evaluation:**

Goals we are focusing on raising

- Math Skill attainment in SPED students
- Attendance percentages

Next month's work session will be used to pick area by area to find academic and attendance improvement possibilities.

### **3. Executive Director Performance Review Process:**

- Kate Plaisance will be emailing out performance review google forms to board members that are due within the next week, so that Becky Meyer may be reviewed.
- Going forward into the 24-25 school year there will be quarterly reviews for the Executive Director.

#### **4. Special Board Meeting for the Executive Director on May 13th, 2024**

- There will be an additional Board meeting held on May 13th, 2024 at 4pm, to further discuss the candidates after the interview process.

### **F. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Staff Benefits:** Kerry Schule motioned to keep Medica as the health insurance provider for AFSA employees, Jack Roessler seconded, the motion passed unanimously.  
(Still would need to figure out details of how additional cost would impact the school and employees. Becky Meyer is emailing Gallagher to see what the cost would be to stay neutral, cost to charge employees the same rates they are currently paying, and the cost to distribute additional cost onto employees)
- 2. Board Oversight Positions, Reviews and Contracts:**
  - Liz Burkwald, recommended for renewal.
  - Bill Lloyd, recommended for renewal.

David Smith motioned to approve, Brady Jones seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. School Calendar FY25 Revision (Becky Presented):** Kerry Schulte motioned for the approval of the revised FY25 School calendar, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Executive Director Candidate:** Julie Cox motioned to interview candidates Mike Hamernick, Sam Wakefield, and Jamie Goulet-Steinke via ZOOM on 4/29 - 5/1 by search committee and Becky Meyer, David Smith seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Work Session and Regular Board Meeting scheduled for **May 21st, 2024 at 5:00pm**

### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Brady Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, Julie Cox seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:33pm.