

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

6025 Chimney Rock Houston, TX 77081
Office (713) 773-4766 FAX (713) 666-2532

6711 Bellfort Houston, TX 77087
Office (713) 645-0336 FAX (713) 640-2435

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 **BOARD MEETING**

VENUE: ACADEMY OF ACCELERATED LEARNING DISTRICT OFFICE
5300 N. Braeswood, Suite 8 Houston, Texas 77096

President Brooks called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm. A quorum was established and in attendance were Board members: Tommy Brooks, Percy Creuzot, Veda Brown, James Douglas, Isaac Ledesma. Absent: None. (James Douglas left meeting at 2:29pm, returned at 2:54pm)

Also present were Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Martha Bravo, Serrena Johnson, Kayla Vaughn

Counsel: Marcia Johnson (via phone) and Luckett A. Johnson;

Other: Sandra Smith

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

President Brooks read AAL Mission, Vision, and Goals.

Board Minutes: Percy Creuzot moved and Issac Ledesma seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 12th and August 6th board meeting. The motion to approve the July 12th and August 6th carried unanimously.

There were no parents or community residents appearing at the meeting to comment.

BUDGET AND BOARD POLICY WORKSHOPS:

Discussion: The initial board workshops were conducted on August 6, 2024. Board members discussed additional work sessions to more fully discuss the proposed policies and procedures. In response, administration will provide schedule for monthly training and discussion sessions for each module beginning September 2024. The board discussed whether it was better to have workshops each month or incorporate the workshops into monthly board meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

I. REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. District Reports:

- i. Back-to-School Plan for 2024-2025
- ii. STAAR 2024 Preliminary Results
- iii. Harris County Department of Education CASE Grant Award
- iv. Board of Directors' Meeting Dates for 2024-2025
- v. 2024-2025 Projected Enrollment
- vi. Facilities Update

b. Financial Reports

- i. 2023-2024 Preliminary Charter FIRST Rating
- ii. ESSER-ARP Plan Closeout Update

Discussion: The Superintendent provided an overview of his back-to-school plan. He discussed staff professional development initiatives for training teachers, directed at improving school and student scores and overall educational performance. The superintendent responded to board members' inquiries regarding participants in these programs stating teachers and staff as well are required to participate in the development program. President Brooks sought verification of the location of the staff development.

The superintendent then introduced the implementation of Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) to help with teacher and student improvement and development. Dr. Brown wanted clarification on what T-TESS was and whether this system was new to the district. The superintendent provided additional information about the system which is new to AAL but not new to the Texas education community. Dr. Brown expressed the importance of staff and teacher feedback on the new training modules.

The superintendent next reported that a trash can fire caused by a homeless person outside the Savoy Campus damaged an electrical box and burned an area on the building's exterior. As a result the school's open house was delayed.

The superintendent next reviewed AAL's academic performance by comparing its STAAR results over the last prior years. The actual accountability ratings remain subject to the pending lawsuit so that actual ratings are not publicly available. However, from the information that is available, the superintendent was able to calculate AAL's performance as a "C". This is an improvement over last year overall. The superintendent then provided breakdowns of the calculation by subject, grade level and years. Science remains a low performing subject. Dr. Brown requested a further breakdown by gender which the superintendent will determine and provide later.

Mr. Brooks asked about best practices for student improvement. Among the discussions that followed his inquiry was whether teachers that are teaching the students should also be allowed to be tutors. Mr. Ledesma elaborated on the principals' roles in ensuring student success. Mr. Ledesma requested a regular update on student progress. Mr. Creuzot asked whether the superintendent and his teams projected student success growth and what their plans were to achieve improvement. Mr. Douglas expressed his concern about the focus on teacher and suggested that if the teachers are working harder than the students then the students aren't learning, so he wants to know what are we AAL is doing to get the students to do the work. Dr. Brown disagreed with Mr. Douglas's emphasis on student input as the primary driver of student

outcomes at grade school level where, she stated, there are important factors that drive student learning at the K-9 level that are different from what drives student learning at the university level, including the importance of the teacher role in driving how the student learns and how they understand. She pointed out that at the university level, students know how they learn where students generally don't know that at the lower levels.

The superintendent presented the prospect of future board meetings occurring monthly rather than quarterly as was expressed by board members during the workshops. A proposed schedule of meetings was presented, with board action regarding same to be on the next board meeting agenda.

The superintendent projected enrollment would be steady from last year. AAL is improving campus safety features across all campuses including new doors.

The Charter First Rating shows a decline from past years noting that from 21-22 was a B while the current preliminary rating is C. The finance team explained that the rating fell because the auditor's report that AAL did not provide for a separation of duties in the financial area. AAL has already begun to remedy the situation in order to improve its procedures and score going forward.

The superintendent provided its ESSER closeout plan for expenditures before the program funding ends.

ACTION ITEMS

a) Motion to approve the first (1st) Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by Dr. Brown seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

b) Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Fiscal-Year Budget by Dr. Brown seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

c) Motion to approve the Incentive Pay in the amount of \$1,300 to qualified AAL employees in the month of August 2024 for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year using available ESSER III funds by Dr. Brown seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

d) Motion authorizing the Board President to negotiate and sign the engagement letter hiring McConnell & Jones, LLP as the External Auditor for 2024-2025 school year, such engagement to provide that firm will complete the annual financial report and single audit report of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 financials made by Dr. Brown seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

e) Motion to approve the request for investment training exception by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

f) Motion to approve the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. 2023-2024 investment policy by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Douglas. 4 Ayes and 1 Nay (Dr. Brown). 4-1 Motion approved.

g) Motion to approve the Resolution to join the Buy Board Local Government Purchasing Cooperative by Dr. Brown seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

h) Motion to approve the Resolution to utilize the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (TTESS) as the evaluation tool for instructional staff by Dr. Brown and seconded Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

i) Motion to approve the Certified Administrators who can appraise a teacher in place of the Teacher's Supervisor by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Creuzot. 4 Ayes and 1 Nay (Dr. Brown). 4-1 Motion approved.

j) Motion to approve the Resolution to utilize the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (TPESS) as the evaluation tool for campus administrators by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion unanimously approved.

k) Motion to approve the Resolution to seek approval of a non-expansion application amendment with TEA for the purpose of amending its charter language to reflect the process for awarding a contract for the construction, repair, or renovation of a structure, road, highway, or other improvement or addition to real property by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Ledesma to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.



Tommy Brooks, Board President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that these minutes reflect the business of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. For the board meeting held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.



Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.



Isaac Ledesma, Board Secretary
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.