

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: **Tuesday, September 10, 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 2:01 pm. A quorum was established and attending were

Board members: Tommy Brooks, Percy Creuzot, James Douglas, Isaac Ledesma, Veda Brown

Also present were Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Kayla Vaughn,

Counsel: Marcia Johnson and Luckett A. Johnson;

Other: Sandra Smith, Sue Cowell, Wendy Montoya-Cloonan, Lauren Grawey, Amanda Stephens, Krystle Chavez (former employee)

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

Reading of the Mission, Vision, and Goals by Superintendent Brandon Chandler

Board Minutes: Percy Creuzot moved and James Douglas seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August 27th board meeting. The motion to approve the August 27th carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session: Motion to recess Open Session and open Executive Session was made by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion carried unanimously and Open session recessed and executive session opened at 2:04 p.m. Unanimously passed

The president announced that the executive session was being conducted as authorized by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code § Section 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.0821, 551.087, 551.129 et seq.; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.071: Consultation with Board attorney regarding all matters authorized by law; and

Tex. Gov't Code §551.074: Deliberation regarding appointment, employment, evaluation,

reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public school official or employee including matters regarding renewal/revisions of superintendent's contract; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.076: Deliberations regarding security devices or security audits; and

Tex. Gov't Code § 551.072: Consultation and deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property as authorized by law including property leases and property acquisition.

Matters as authorized by law were discussed in executive session.

Dr. Brown moved to close Executive Session and resume Open Session. Mr. Creuzot seconded the Motion which carried unanimously without discussion. 3:32 pm

Parent or Community Resident appearing at the meeting to comment:

Krystle Chavez (via Zoom):

Krystle Chavez addressed the board at 3:35 pm. Ms. Chavez states that she was appearing as a concerned parent. However, she first stated that her termination based on discrimination was not adequately addressed at the board level and wants to make sure that this does not affect the children of AAL. She believes the issues especially the discrimination should not travel to the children. She wants to know about the children at Ashcroft and the concerns and fears from the parents of issues regarding safety. The survey that was issued to parents was only given after the purchase of the property limiting parental participation and she wanted to know whether the survey was looked at from the board level.

She said she observed the security guards on their phone and not watching the campus at Savoy. The feedback from the parents was not addressed by the superintendent and board. During a recent visit she noticed open gates and security lacking on certain levels especially in light of mass shootings. She wants to make sure that security concerns will be addressed and proactive measures will be taken to prevent major incidents.

Dr. Brown wants to know what the debriefing notes as well as what videos and surveys that Mrs. Chavez discussed and wanted to make sure the board was allowed to see this information. President Brooks requested that this information and security issues be presented at next board meeting or the one after.

I. REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Superintendent Report:

- i. Marketing Plan Updated and Review
- ii. Enrollment Update

b. Financial Report

- i. Financial Update with Preliminary Plan for Budget Reduction

Discussion:

The Superintendent produced the marketing and engagement tools that are being used currently and in the future for recruitment. Dr. Brown asked how many followers AAL has on Facebook. She also wants the marketing team to identify where AAL parents and potential parents are in order to use the right social media platforms to target directly to that market.

Superintendent gave an update on the enrollment numbers, down 85 students from last year, 15 students up from the last meeting. The staff reached out to the parents to find out where the students went. The main drivers were the distance of the new campus and HISD starting a week earlier than AAL. Mr. Brooks wanted to make sure that this district school start time is a teachable moment. Dr. Brown would like to see a return on the investment from AAL marketing plan before continuing moving forward to make sure AAL is using effective strategies from a statistical perspective. Dr. Brown would also like parent input on social media uses for marketing and outreach purposes.

Preliminary Budget Reduction Plan: Presentation of budget reduction options, breakdown, and recommendation. Options include:

1. Do nothing – decrease in fund balance, negative Impact on Charter First Rating, concerns with solvency.
2. Decrease expenses – decrease expenses.
3. Active Fundraising and Donations – funds won't be available until 2025-2026, need a realistic goal.
4. Combination – must be watched closely, need accountability.

CDARS Investment – AAL's reserve will be reduced and runs risk of depleting funds. Mr. Brooks wants to make sure that the current fund balance does not include CDARS. Mrs. Sandra Smith responded that the fund balance did not include CDARS however, she said it is included in the accounting fund balance.

To ensure best practices, administration is reviewing object codes including:

1. payroll and benefits.
2. Possible staff reduction options.
3. Professional and contracted services.
4. 5% across the board reductions.

Overall, these practices could yield the largest budget reductions. Mr. Creuzot wanted to understand the coding issue and how that affected the funding because it is still an expense. Mrs. Smith agreed and explained the impact of coding on budget reductions. She also issued an alert that the current numbers did not include anticipated costs of Materials and Construction. or Miscellaneous Operating and suggested cutting these areas by 10%. She also said she is looking into the potential relocation of the district office to Savoy campus which would decrease the rent expenses.

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Motion to approve and to authorize AAL Administration to amend the 2023-2024 Budget to actual expenses so that 10% variance does not have to be addressed under Charter FIRST by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion: Mr. Brooks wanted an explanation. Mrs. Smith states if you do not keep your variance in a particular range it could negatively impact First Rating.

- b) Motion to approve and adopt the Board Policy Module: Governance by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Ledesma. Motion approved. 3-0-2 Dr. Brown and Mr. Douglas abstained
- c) Motion to approve and adopt the AAL Administration proposal regarding pursuit of the purchase agreement for the property located at 6053 Bellfort by Mr. Ledesma seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion: Administrative proposal is to discontinue the purchase the property under the current agreement but not to prohibit the further due diligence in a potential purchase.

- d) Motion to approve and adopt the AAL Administration proposal regarding pursuit of pending bond transaction by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion: Mr. Brooks asked whether the bond proposal has a tie in to anything other than the Ashcroft property. Mr. Brooks asked the impact on bond costs reduction if the purchase of Bellfort is delayed. The likelihood is that any reduction would be minimal because most of the work has already been completed and very little cost is based on the percentage of the bond issuance.

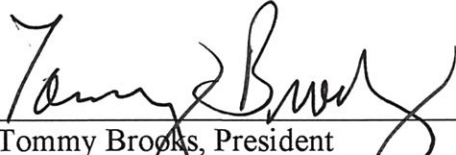
Motion by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Mr. Ledesma to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.



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, September 10, 2024.



Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.



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

CERTIFIED AGENDA
Executive Session of the
School Board for the
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.
Houston, Texas
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

1. The School Board convened an open Board meeting at 2:01 p.m.
2. The School Board, pursuant to an announcement made by the President, then duly convened into Executive Session, closed to the public, at 2:04 p.m.

3. Those present in the executive session were:

James Douglas
Tommy Brooks
Percy Creuzot
Isaac Ledesma
Brandon Chandler, Superintendent
Marcia Johnson

Lockett Johnson
Veda Brown
Sue Cowell
Wendy Montoya-Cloonan
Lauren Grawey
Amanda Stephens

Absent:
None

4. The executive session included the following agenda items: (attach agenda)
 - a. Phase II Environmental Report impact on Potential Property Acquisition on Bellfort
 - b. Bond particulars regarding potential property acquisition
 - c. Personnel Changes

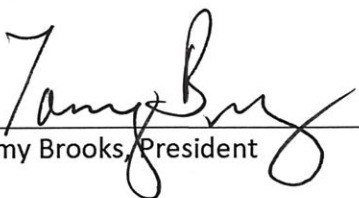
5. The executive session was pursuant to:
Texas Government Code §§ 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney),
Texas Government Code §§ 551.074 (Deliberations about School Official or Employee)
Texas Government Code §§ 551.072 (Consultation and deliberation regarding the purchase...)

6. The President announced the end of the executive session at 3:32 p.m., and the School Board reconvened in open session at that time.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, as Presiding Officer of the executive session described above, hereby certifies that this document is a true and correct record of the proceeding.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

by: 
Tommy Brooks, President