

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

**September 24, 2024**

**3:55pm - 4:29pm**

**Board Members Present:** Becky Meyer, Kerry Schulte, Leslie Scherer, Laura Wyatt, Melissa Farler, David Smith, Scott Stene

**Board Members Absent:** Jenny Cook, Kate Plaisance, Julie Cox

**Guests:** Kate Bald, Teresa Kothbauer, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea

## **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Policy and By-Laws Review:**

- Term Limits: An Individual may serve on the Board for no more than 4 consecutive terms or as an Officer for no more than 7 years (Filling the role of a previous board member who stepped down does NOT count towards this limit).
- Executive Director Evaluation Procedure
- Executive Director Qualifications
- Library: Changing position title from Librarian to Library Media Specialist, setting the limit to no more than 9 Book Ban requests per School Year, equaling out to 1 request per month.
- Procurement Policy
- Nepotism Policy: Family Members who would be in a position where they would be over/under each other in power dynamics need to be approved by the Board in order to be hired.
- Language Access/ELL Programming Plan
- Public Data Request Policy
- Student Journalism Policy

### **2. Retreat Agenda:**

At AFSA High School from 9:00am - 3:00pm on October 12th

- 9:00 - 11:00: Training
- Lunch will be provided
- 11:00 - 3:00: Team Building, Talk about Policy/Finance/Strategy Plan, Talk about Executive Director Position.

## **B. ADJOURN**

**Adjourning time: 4:29pm**

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

## **September 24, 2024**

### **5:00 - 5:56pm**

**Board Members Present:** Becky Meyer, Julie Cox, Kerry Schulte, Laura Wyatt, Melissa Farler, Leslie Scherer, Scott Stene, David Smith, Jenny Cook.

**Board Members Absent:** Kate Plaisance

**Guests:** Kate Bald, Laura Nelson, Teresa Kothbauer, Meghan Eschenbach-O'Shea

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

- 1. Call to Order:** Julie Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
  - 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:** Laura Wyatt moved to approve the minutes as circulated, David Smith seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Financial Report:** Becky Meyer presented the Financial Report; including the payment of invoices and the acceptance of gifts. Laura Wyatt moved to accept the Financial Report, payment of invoices and accept all gifts. Kerry Schulte seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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

## **C. GUEST COMMENTS**

**Teresa Kothbauer:** Teresa presented on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). International FASD day is on September 9th, the symbolism is because there is 9 months in a pregnancy so it is set on the 9th day of the 9th month. Teresa shared that her son experiences FASD, she also shared Governor Walz's proclamation on FASD. In the U.S 1 in 20 people have some form of FASD, it is the leading cause of prenatal disorders in the country. She reported that research says there is no safe amount of alcohol to consume while pregnant.

## **D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **1. School Activities Reports:**

Laura Nelson presented activity reports for the 7-12 building.

A Representative from the University of Minnesota (who happens to be an AFSA Alumni) is coming to talk to the Highschool students about College/What to Expect/What to think about now. Play Auditions for Midsummer Nights Dream have been happening, and a cast list was just posted this week. Ms. Warner's Woodworking class is building birdhouses, Ms. Vorwald's Art class is giving old tables a new life and painting on them. Activation Week: Themed Days and Advisory Challenges/Games. FACD, 15 groups of Students and Staff are going out to help in various locations, 1 group will stay at the 7-12 Building to do work there. Constitution Day was on September 17th, Advisories had various activities to educate about the day. A Safety Night event will be held on October 3rd from 4:00 - 7:00pm, and AFSA's Annual Potato Hug will be on October 5th from 10:00am - 2:00om. All Drills and Bus/Pedestrian/Bike Safety have been practiced. Sam Wakefield has commented that Student Engagement is Up and Behaviors are Down.

Enrollment is at 248.

Kate Bald presented activity reports for the Pk-6 building.

Classrooms have been learning about Hispanic Heritage month and are getting ready for Anti-Bullying month in October. Grades Prek - 4 have been out on field trips already this month, and 5-6 have had guest speakers from Dodge Nature Center come into the classroom to present. Prek/K screening has been completed, as well was reading screening for grades 1-3. Osprey Wild's is visiting the Prek-6 Building soon, and an additional new SPED Teacher will be joining the Elementary Team in October. Open House and Numeracy night will be October 3rd in combination with the 7-12 building's Safety Night from 4:00 - 7:00pm. All Drills and Bus/Pedestrian/Bike Safety have been practiced.

Enrollment is at 150.

Total Enrollment is 398.

**2. Administration Report:** Becky Meyer presented.

- AFSA had to change drug test companies (Previous company closed the local locations).
- New SPED Director, Mark Kruger will be joining AFSA's team.
- Freedom of Information Request, All vendors from the past 5 years including expenses. The request will cost \$2,200
- 4 new staff members including SPED staff, a highschool counselor, and EA's.

**3. Committee Report:** None.

**E. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Environmental Literacy Plan:**

- Kerry Schulte is spending September 27th working with the 4-6th grade Teachers on planning environmental education field trips.
- Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate fundraiser upcoming in November
- Kerry Schulte is taking her class on a field trip to the Mississippi river to talk about how Native Americans used it as a trading route and used their environmental resources to create tools, then reflecting on the question of how would the kids use their environment?
- Chemistry class at the 7-12 grade building is doing a water sample lab.
- Science Fair upcoming later this year (Environmental Sciences are one of the suggested pathways for students).

**F. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Updated and New Policy Approval**

- a. Library (new)
- b. Procurement (revised)
- c. Nepotism (revised)
- d. Student Journalism (new)
- e. Language Access Plan
- f. Data request (revised)

David Smith motioned to approve, Kerry Schulte seconded, the motion passed unanimously with Jenny Cook abstaining from the vote due to not being present at the work session.

2. **Updated By-Laws Approval:** David Smith moved to approve the updated by-laws, Leslie Scherer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Work Regular Board Meeting is October 29, 2024 at 5:00pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.
- b. AFSA Board Retreat will be held October 12th, 2024 9am-3pm at AFSA High School.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Laura Wyatt motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kerry Schulte seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 5:56pm.