

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, January 23, 2025 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 10:01 am. A quorum was established and in attendance were

Board members: Isaac Ledesma, James Douglas, Tommy Brooks, Veda Brown via Zoom

Absent: Percy Creuzot

Also present were Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Martha Bravo, Kayla Vaughn and Miranda Moore

Counsel: Marcia Johnson and Luckett A. Johnson;

Other: Sandra Smith Gilmore, and Karen Emery, Shawana Spann, George Sues, who appeared via zoom

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

Mr. Issac Ledesma read the AAL Mission, Vision, and Goals

Board Minutes: Mr. James Douglas moved and Mr. Isaac Ledesma seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 10th board meeting. The motion to approve the December 10th carried unanimously.

No Parent or Community Resident appeared at the meeting to comment.

No Executive Session was convened.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Audit Presentation from the Auditors at McConnell and Jones

The auditors presented and discussed their unmodified opinion and further provided an overview of their audit process. The auditors noted their findings addressing some with specificity. They reported that some bank reconciliations had not been timely made during the period audited. Mr. Douglas asked for specifics on the untimely reconciled bank records. Auditors responded that purchases and depreciation were not timely journaled and reconciled. The auditors surmised the failure had likely

resulted from the fact that these were unusually occurring transactions so staff may not have performed the journal entries and reconciliations appropriately. Examples included transactions related to leased properties that leasehold items that are one-time adjustments. Mr. Brooks asked whether the auditors believed AAL staff now understands the importance of the timely recording and accurate reporting of transactions. The auditors opined that there is no gap in knowledge but rather existing procedures need to be clarified, revised and better implemented. The Auditors also reported that the system of checks and balances had not been implemented to ensure that multiple people were appropriately signing off on journal entries. Mr. Douglas wanted to know the names of staff responsible. Further, financial checks and balances showing requisite approvals were specifically present with debit card expenditures. The superintendent reported that no debit card is now being used by the district. Similar to the debit card issue, the auditors noted errors with the child nutrition program where appropriate approvals failed to be provided to support payments. After an overview of revenue and expenses, the audit team concluded their presentation lauding AAL's professional staff. Mr. Brooks shared the board sentiment thanking the auditors for their work to keep the district moving in the right direction.

Discussion:

The Superintendent presented the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) that showed district improvement over the prior year to a C with overall improvement with some declines in certain areas. The board registered its concerns about student performance and requested to see a year over year comparison. A look into Social Studies and Science deficiencies was a significant cause of concern as AAL scores were significantly lower than regional and statewide scores. Mr. Brooks emphasized the importance and urgency of academic improvement. The Superintendent reminded the Board that specific campus performance data would be presented at the next meeting showing comparison data for all tested core content areas (math, reading, social studies, and science).

The superintendent reported that AAL submitted its Multihazard Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) to the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The Superintendent provided an overview of the Bellfort relocation survey that was initially distributed to parents in October 2024 reporting a low turnout in response. Parents that did answer overwhelmingly reported they would not move their children the 25 miles to Ashcroft or Savoy. Based on those that answered the survey, the parents would not stay with AAL for those campus even if the school provided transportation. The survey also included a question on why parents have chosen AAL for their children. Mr. Douglas suggested the board consider closing the Bellfort campus during its February board meeting.

Ms. Bravo reported that none of the facilities suffered damage from Winter Storm Enzo. Mr. Douglas asked for an update on the homeless situations at the Savoy campus and was told that nothing had changed. Mr. Brooks requested that AAL be more proactive in getting relief including reaching out to area political representatives and contacting the property owner in writing to produce paper trails of all the actions AAL is taking to remove the threats and provide relief. Ms. Bravo also reported that the Bellfort campus elevator is again not working and attempts to work with the landlord to find a solution that will fix the issue have been worthless.

Legislative session has started so there will be a number changes that will be coming as multiple bills have been filed including the Governor's push for vouchers.

Mrs. Smith discussed the ramifications of a Going concerns finding in the future and suggested ways to ensure that it does not occur. The Smith report is based on consultation with the auditors as AAL moves forward. The focus of the going concern document is to understand that certain procedures need to be followed moving forward. The new CFO wants to implement a software system that will help forecast five years out to keep the district operational and avoid growing concerns. Mr. Brooks believes that is necessary to be proactive rather than reactive so that we can avoid pitfalls and issues moving forward. Mrs. Smith suggested that AAL prepare a comprehensive plan for the district and expressed her thanks to AAL.

Mr. Brooks recognized the need to include the board, administration and staff to ensure that performance deadlines are created and met. He appointed a finance committee that would include Mr. Isaac Ledesma from the board. Mr. Brooks would participate ad hoc. The committee needs to address improvement with handling the finances especially from a month-to-month perspective to make sure that the district is working effectively and efficiently. Mr. Brooks would like to explore the feasibility of hiring an internal auditor to make sure we have everything up to high quality standards. The committee would also review audit findings from this year and previous years.

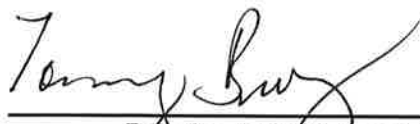
The Superintendent reported that National Charter School Conference is scheduled for June in Orlando, FL. Options for the board retreat will be presented, specifically during the next board meeting.

The superintendent then presented the Board Personnel Policy Module. The board voted unanimously to postpone consideration until the board has the opportunity to participate in an informal preview with staff.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Ledesma to approve and accept the Annual Financial and Compliance Audit Report for year ended August 31, 2024. Motion unanimously approved.

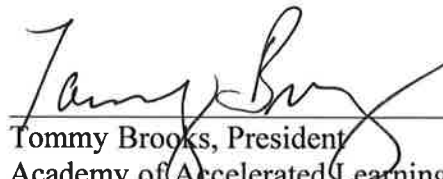
Motion by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Ledesma to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



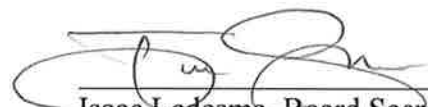
Tommy Brooks, Board President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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 Thursday, January 23, 2025.



Tommy Brooks, President
Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.



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