

Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc.

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 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 2:00 pm. A quorum was established and in attendance were

Board members: Isaac Ledesma, James Douglas, Tommy Brooks, Veda Brown and Percy Creuzot arrived at 2:05 pm

Absent: Isaac Ledesma left meeting at 3:44 pm

Also present were Staff: Brandon Chandler (Superintendent), Martha Bravo, Kayla Vaughn, Miranda Moore, Danetta Lightener, Brianna Perez, Deordre Adams,

Counsel: Marcia Johnson and Lockett A. Johnson;

Other: Felicia Lacy

President Brooks called for a moment of silence.

James Douglas read the Mission, Vision, and Goals.

Board Minutes: James Douglas moved and Isaac Ledesma seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 23rd board meeting. The motion to approve the January 23rd minutes carried unanimously.

Parent or Community Resident appearing at the meeting to comment: Grandparent, Ms. Felicia Lacy addressed the board regarding the future of the Bellfort campus. She informed the board that her grandchildren have been attending the Bellfort campus and she believes in the growth and quality of the education given to the children. She believes that moving the campus will be akin to throwing the children to the wolves with bigger classroom sizes and less hands-on attention. She believes that moving the campus would cause difficulty getting the children to school. Ms. Lacy asked the board to leave the campus at its current site.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session: Dr. Brown moved to recess Open Session and Open Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion carried unanimously and Open session recessed, and executive session opened at 2:12 p.m.

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.

Discussion: Matters as authorized by law were discussed in executive session.

Mr. Creuzot moved to close Executive Session. Mr. Douglas seconded the Motion which carried out unanimously without discussion. 3:44 pm. Dr. Brown's motion to reconvene Open Session was seconded by Mr. Douglas and unanimously carried at 3:44 pm. When the open session was resumed.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Superintendent Reports:

- i. Review AAL sites academic performance data and ratings
 1. Ashcroft
 2. Bellfort
 3. Savoy
- ii. Discuss and consider structures for the establishment of a fundraising committee
- iii. Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Legislative Update for 89th Legislative Session and advocacy

b. Financial Reports:

- i. Review of costs to operate each AAL site and provide transportation
- ii. AAL Financial Review/Report Update
- iii. Discuss and consider structures for the establishment of a finance committee

c. Governance – Board of Directors

- i. Facilities Committee Report
- ii. Board Training Opportunities – National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Conference (June 29 – July 2 – all Board members have been registered)

Discussion:

The Principals at the three AAL sites reported to the board as follows:

Danetta Lightener presented the Ashcroft campus student test scoring and overall academic performance. Dr. Brown asked whether the MAP and STAAR exams are testing the same areas of

student proficiencies. Mr. Brooks questioned the data points regarding the difference between the Spring and Fall numbers of the STAAR Interim Performance. Mr. Brooks asked what challenges the schools faced that resulted in their lower academic performance during the spring assessment. Language barriers was identified as a big problem as well as teacher retention, among others that the school is working to address. Mr. Douglas asked what percentage of parents complained about homework. Ms. Lightener responded that the numbers are low; and that instead parents wanted more homework assigned. Dr. Brown asked to know what exactly the principal is doing to improve students' overall performance. Mr. Creuzot opined that when the principal's next report to the board they need to focus on growth and improved numbers.

Brianna Perez, principal at the Bellfort Campus, next presented by providing an overview of campus demographics. She stated that across AAL there are no non-Hispanic white students and Hispanic students are enrolled at higher numbers than non Hispanic Blacks.

She reported that student performance has not been as strong as it should be. She presented charts showing science and mathematics grade level performance for 3rd to 8th grades showed deficits during non-tested years that manifested negative impacts down the road. Mr. Douglas asked whether the middle school students were home grown. It appears that they are home grown. Next, Perez gave an overview of STAAR cohort tracking data. Mr. Brooks requested an analysis to show how the elementary and middle ratings led to an unbalanced overall rating for the campus. Brooks sought specifics on how the school planned to increase growth in the classroom and how small group training could be used for better performance results. Perez discussed her overall plan to address the areas of concern and student performance deficits. She projected the rating for the campus performance for the year 2025 to be higher than last year's. Mr. Brooks asked what the principal needed from the board that would aid her in improving student outcomes. Teacher retention is a big factor for Bellfort as well. Mr. Brooks asked why the staffing issues have occurred. The superintendent along with his HR team are exploring ways to diminish staffing issues at the Bellfort campus.

Deordre Adams presented Savoy campus demographics with an explanation for some conflicting numbers because of student choice when checking certain boxes related to race and ethnicity. She provided a breakdown of the STAAR grade level performance, she first presented the current STAAR rating level of B. Mr. Douglas asked how homework was affecting student performance because he feels that parents sometimes don't know how to help their children achieve higher education execution and he opined that, we, as a staff need to address those issues with the parents to make sure that homework is beneficial. Mr. Brooks wants staff to produce a more comprehensive explanation of the growth vs achievement percentile measurement of student assessment including a breakdown of how each quadrant is addressed in moving forward toward student positive achievement. The current rating prediction is a STAAR rating of B. Adams provided an overview of factors that will contribute to student growth and how the campus will meet the academic challenges set to ensure student success.

Mr. Brooks wanted to know why the financials seemed to be missing data. The CFO explained that the missing data is about recoding and getting new information onto the books. Mr. Brooks will select the members and of a finance committee. As with all committees he will participate as ex officio.

The superintendent provided an overview of the financial data. The travel cost for the charter conference is high so alternative options for travel, accommodations and length of stay were presented and modifications will be made accordingly.

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Motion made by Dr. Brown to approve the AAL calendar seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion

unanimously approved.

Discussion: The calendar is made up of a survey from both the parents and staff/faculty. Mr. Douglas wanted to know if the school had students that had Muslims students when considering the calendar and Muslim holidays.

- b) Motion to approve and adopt Board Policy Module: Personnel made by Mr. Creuzot seconded by Mr. Douglas. Motion passes 3 Ayes and 1 abstain (Dr. Brown)
- c) Motion to approve and hire Shulman, Lopez, Hoffer, & Adelstein attorneys and counselors at law to represent AAL in pending EEO claim made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously passed.
- d) Motion to approve and adopt facilities committee recommendation regarding the purchase or lease of the Bellfort site made by Mr. Douglas seconded by Mr. Creuzot. Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion: The facilities committee recommended that an offer to purchase the Bellfort site at appraised rate, if purchase offer not accepted, then can offer a 5-year gross lease at market rate. If neither offer is accepted, then close the Bellfort campus effective beginning academic year 2025-2026

Motion by Mr. Creuzot and seconded by Dr. Brown to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved and meeting adjourned at 5:22 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, February 25, 2025.



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, February 25, 2025

1. The School Board convened an open Board meeting at 2:00 p.m.
2. The School Board, pursuant to an announcement made by the President, then convened into Executive Session, closed to the public, at 2:12 p.m.

3. Those present in the executive session were:

James Douglas
Tommy Brooks
Percy Creuzot
Isaac Ledesma
Dr. Veda Brown
Brandon Chandler, Superintendent
Marcia Johnson
Lockett Johnson
Absent: None

4. The executive session included the following agenda items: (attach agenda)
 - a. Bellfort area and site purchase or lease
 - b. EEOC Grievance, Krystle Chavez

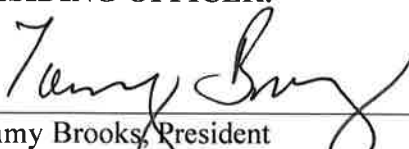
5. The executive session was pursuant to:
Texas Government Code §§ 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney),
Texas Government Code §§ 551.074 (Deliberations about School Official of Employee)
Texas Government Code §§ 551.072 (Consultation and deliberation regarding the purchase...)
Texas Government Code §§ 551.076: Deliberations regarding security devices or security audits
Texas Government Code §§ 551.082: Deliberate cases involving discipline of a public-school child or in which a complaint or charge is brought against an employee of the school district by another employee and the complaint or charge directly results in a need for a hearing.

6. The President announced the end of the executive session at 3:44 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